



**Australian Government**

**Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2002 - 2003**



*let's keep it great*



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**Further information**

The 2002-2003 Annual Report is accessible on the GBRMPA website. The site also includes supplementary information including a list of staff papers and Authority publications produced during the year. A detailed list of membership of relevant external committees can also be found at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au).

Contact Officer: Director, Communication and Education (contract details as above).

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
Townsville QLD 4810

30 September 2003

The Hon Dr David Kemp MP  
Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

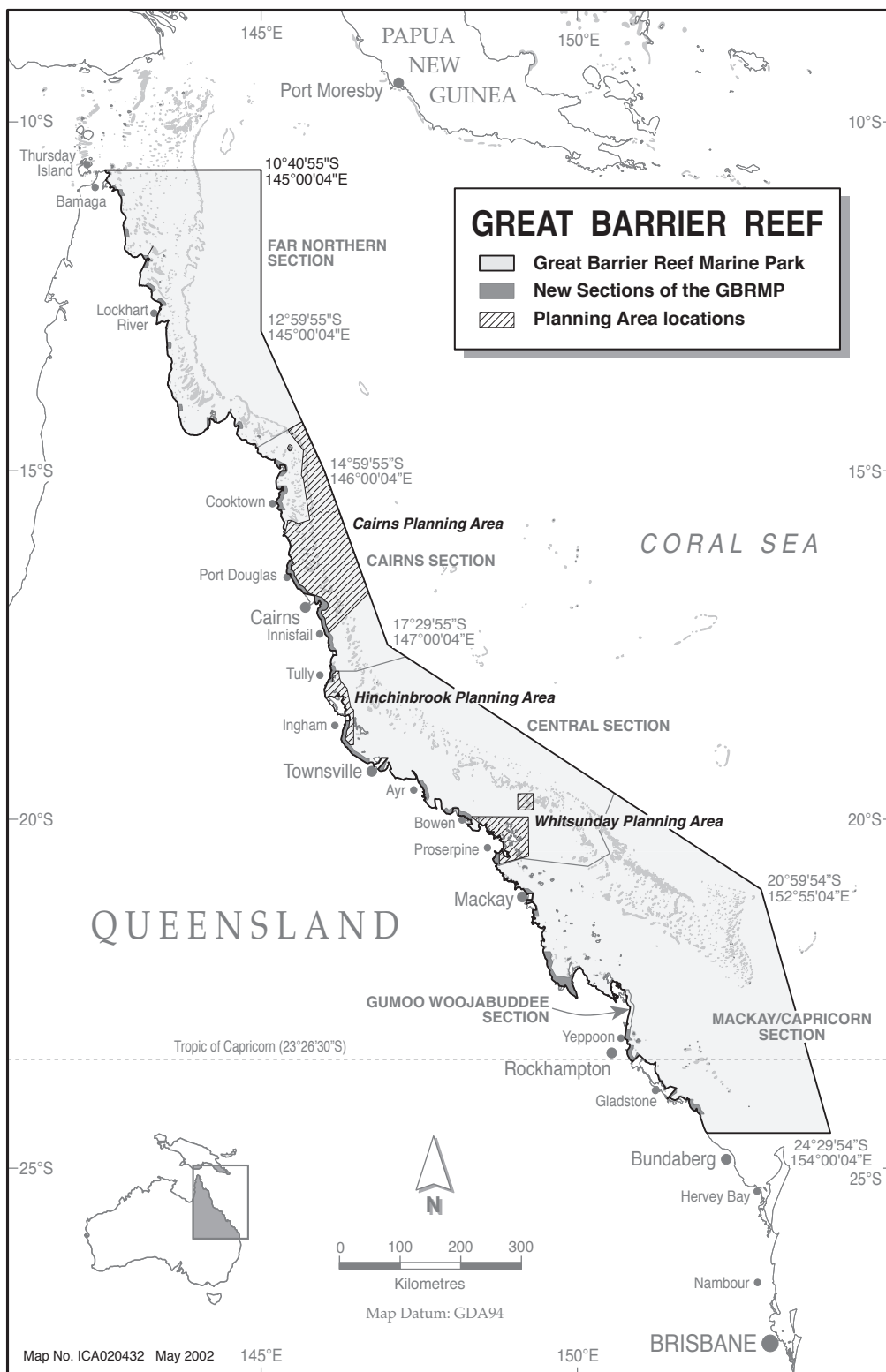
In accordance with section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, I submit the Annual Report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2003.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Chadwick', with a large loop at the end.

Hon Virginia Chadwick  
Chair







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## SECTION A

# Introductory



## Message from the Chair

If one word encapsulates the work of the Authority in 2002-2003, it is 'partnership.' Significant partnerships have been forged with many of our key stakeholders to address critical issues such as water quality, and a spirit of partnership pervaded the whole agency as we directed our collective energy to the Representative Areas Program.

Water quality from the Great Barrier Reef catchment area, and its impact on the health of inshore reefs, continues to be a major concern. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard, and Premier of Queensland, the Hon Peter Beattie, signed on 13 August 2002, aims to halt the decline in water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park over the next ten years. In addition, the GBRMPA has collaborated closely with Queensland and other Commonwealth Agencies during the year to develop a Draft Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. The Plan incorporates the findings of 15 years of research that point to the impacts of declining water quality entering the GBR lagoon. We recognise that good water quality underpins the resilience of the Reef and is linked to its capacity to recover from bleaching and other natural disturbances.

Our enforcement efforts have improved considerably during the past 12 months. The GBRMPA, in partnership with Coastwatch, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and Queensland EPA, has resulted in record detections and fines against fishers operating illegally in green zones. Quality environmental impact statements, provided by the GBRMPA in support of evidence to the courts, have helped magistrates recognise the serious environmental impact of fishing in green zones. Consistent with the theme of cooperation, the GBRMPA hosted an interagency workshop *'Towards an advanced integrated approach to compliance management in the Great Barrier Reef'*, in June 2003, which was attended by 21 agencies from throughout Australia.

The GBRMPA is one of several agencies involved in identifying threats and coordinating and facilitating conservation programs for threatened species. The conservation of dugongs, turtles, dolphins and whales continues to be a priority, and there is now a strong interagency approach to the management of these species. Recognising the critical cultural importance of dugongs and turtles to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit has continued to work closely with Traditional Owner groups to provide strategic support and assistance to communities throughout the region. Among the year's highlights, agreement was reached with Girringun Aboriginal and Elders Reference Group, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries to create a Girringun Ranger Unit in Cardwell, which it is hoped will commence early in the next Financial Year.

Ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity on the Reef through implementation of the Representative Areas Program has been the principal activity of the agency during the past financial year. The substantial public consultation program conducted in May and August 2002 generated 10,190 submissions, each of which was individually analysed and recorded. A Draft Zoning Plan was released with supporting maps and documentation in June 2003, heralding the start of the second phase of community consultation involving meetings with communities over the length of the GBR coast.

Partnership with the tourism industry has been a major feature of the year, in recognition that the industry is of critical importance both to the economy of the Great Barrier Reef Region and to Queensland generally, highlighted so graphically in the Productivity Commission report *Industries, Land Use and Water Quality in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment* published in February 2003.

The Authority's commitment to education was significantly advanced with the launch of the ReefED website <http://www.reefed.edu.au/> by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Hon Dr David Kemp, in January 2003, which has been visited by more than 35,000 people from more than 100 countries around the world. The site contains a wealth of curriculum-based teaching materials and student activities, including the GBR Explorer – an encyclopaedia of information about the geography, animals and plants of the Great Barrier Reef.

Partnership with local communities, stakeholder, industry and community groups have been strengthened through the GBRMPA's Local Marine Advisory Committees, Reef Advisory Committees and the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee. I thank all Chairs and members for their efforts and valuable advice.

I am indebted to my fellow Board members for their contribution and support throughout the year.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all GRBMPA staff and management for their commitment, dedication and hard work toward the achievement of the Authority's charter during the past 12 months.

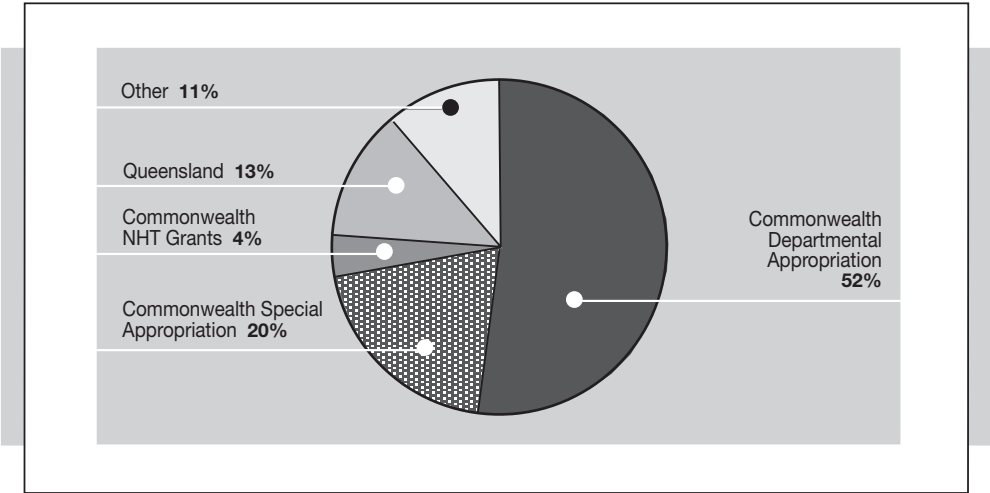


Hon Virginia Chadwick  
Chair

# Summary of Financial Performance

Details of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's [GBRMPA's] financial operations are provided in the Financial Statements at Section D. An overview of the Authority's financial operations follows and a summary of financial and staffing resources is at Table 1.

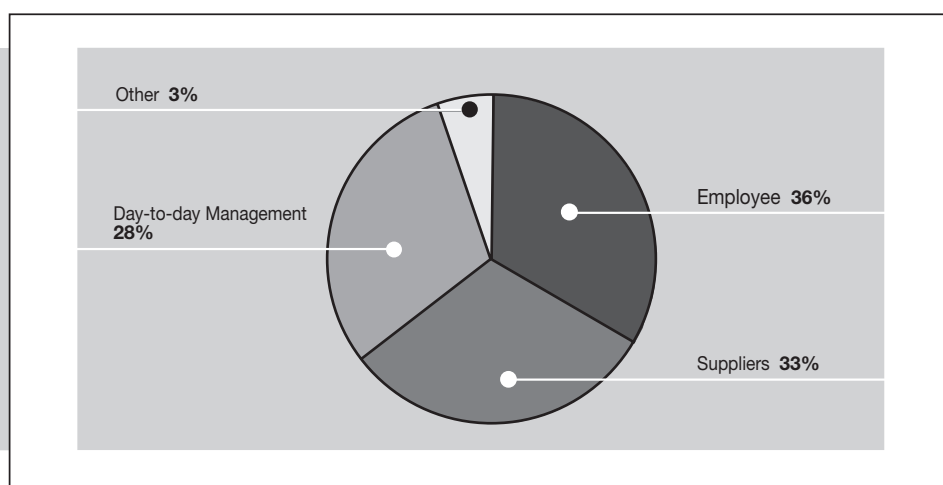
Total appropriation for 2002-03 of \$24.006 million was \$2.414 million less than the 2001-02 appropriation. This was primarily because the 2001-02 appropriation had included the 3rd and final year of funding for the Enhanced Enforcement and Surveillance Program and additional funding for the refurbishment of the Reef HQ Aquarium. There were other minor variations due to adjustment to programs in accordance with measures announced in the 2001-02 Budget for Aquaculture and Environmental Management Charge Offset, and adjustments to capital use charge and depreciation supplementation.



**Figure 1: Operating revenues by source 2002-03**

Revenue from other sources was \$9.538 million more than in 2001-02. Revenue from Reef HQ admission sales and retail operations was up on 2001-02 as the facility was closed for refurbishment from February to July 2002. A \$1 million Natural Heritage Trust grant was received to assist with the zoning of the 28 new areas that have been added to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The operating expense of managing the Marine Park in 2002-03 was \$32.1 million, a decrease of 1 per cent from 2001-02. Employee expenses increased due to the third stage of the Agency Certified Agreement and additional staff for the Representative Areas Program, indigenous liaison and educational programs associated with ReefHQ. Expenses for suppliers were similar to the previous year with additional resources allocated to the Representative Areas Program.



**Figure 2: Expenses by category 2002-03**

The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments provided matching funding for day-to-day management of the Marine Park, which is implemented by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The operating surplus for the year from operations before the capital use charge was \$1.4 million.

Table 1 sets out budget and actual resource usage for each of the outputs identified in the Portfolio Budget Statement.

### Explanation of Resource Table variations

Table 1 indicates variations between Budget and Actual Resource usage for 2002-03. The major increases from Budget to Actual relates to changes to the organisational structure during the year including:

- The establishment of a Representative Areas Program [RAP] Taskforce through combining some staff from Output 1.5.2 – Planning and Impact with Output 1.1 – Conservation Group; and
- The transfer of the Aquaculture Unit from Output 1.5.2 to Output 1.2 – Water Quality and Coastal Development.

Despite the shift of resources from Output 1.5.2 – Planning and Impact to other outputs, there was expenditure on monitoring of the development at Nelly Bay Harbour. This was not included in the original budget. Additional resources were also allocated to liaison with indigenous groups and community involvement.



## RESOURCES FOR GBRMPA OUTCOME

OUTCOME <i>Protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef</i>		Budget 2002-03 \$'000	Actual 2002-03 \$'000	Variation to budget \$'000	Budget 2003-2004 \$'000
<b>Price of Departmental Outputs</b>					
Output Group 1.1 –	Conservation, Biodiversity & World Heritage	1,383	2,258	875	2,067
Output Group 1.2 –	Water Quality & Coastal Development	1,584	1,901	317	2,138
Output Group 1.3 –	Fisheries	1,056	1,163	107	1,205
Output Group 1.4 –	Tourism & Recreation	1,214	1,135	-79	1,049
Output Group 1.5 –	Park Management				
1.5.1	Field management of the Marine Park	9,772	9,847	75	9,684
1.5.2	Planning and Impact Management of the Marine Park	3,751	3,981	230	3,010
1.5.3	Liaison with indigenous groups & community involvement	883	1,025	142	956
	<b>Sub-total Output Group 1.5</b>	<b>14,406</b>	<b>14,853</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>13,650</b>
Output Group 1.6 –	Information for Park Management	4,337	4,678	341	4,451
Output Group 1.7 –	Reef Education & Communication	7,210	7,408	198	6,002
<b>Total Price of Departmental Outputs and Resourcing</b>		<b>31,190</b>	<b>33,396</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>30,562</b>
<b>Staff Level [FTEs at 30 June] 2003</b>		<b>165</b>	<b>171.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>165</b>

**Table 1: Financial and staffing resources summary [includes Capital Use Charge].**

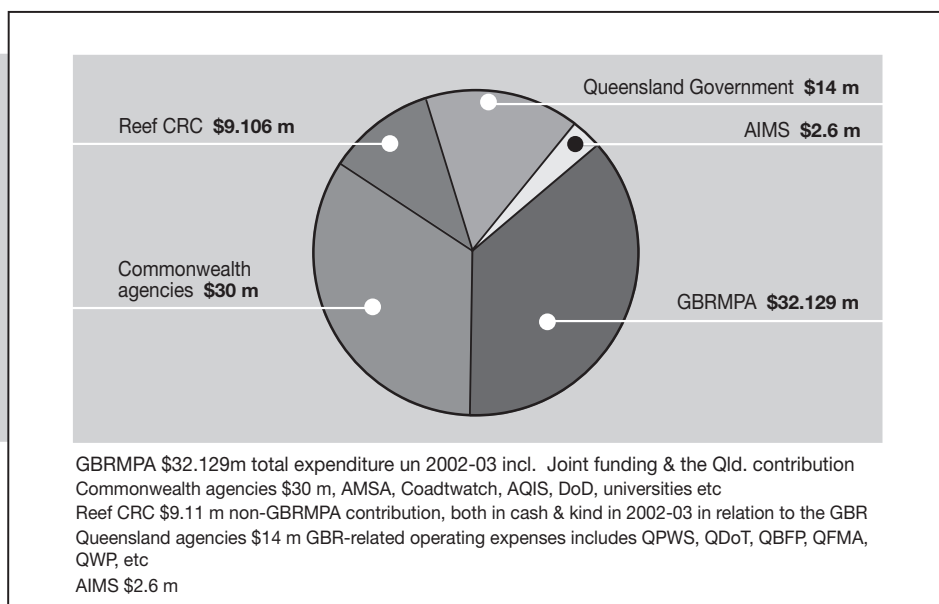
**Please Note:** Details of each output are given at pp 40-81

Additional resources were allocated to Output 1.6 including work on coral bleaching and spatial data analysis for the RAP. The increased resources allocated for Output 1.7 Reef Education and Communication incorporates the finalisation of the refurbishment of Reef HQ during the year.

## Whole of Government contributions to the management of the Great Barrier Reef

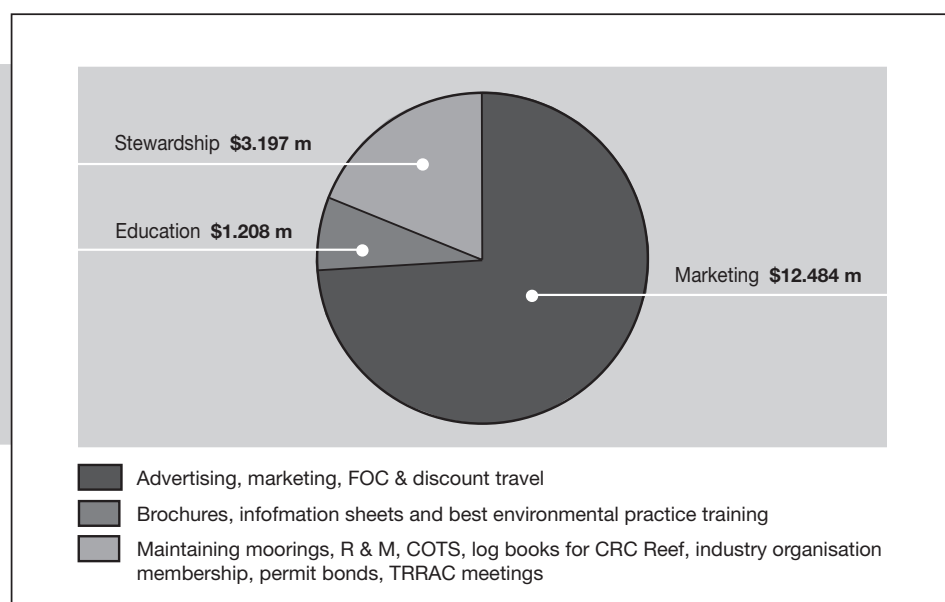
Figures 3 and 4 show that the GBRMPA is just one of many agencies with responsibilities for the management of the Great Barrier Reef.

Although the data presented in Figure 4 are outside the financial year being reported upon, they are the most recent available. They have been included to demonstrate that tourism is also a significant contributor to the management of the Great Barrier Reef.



**Figure 3: Whole of government contributions to the management of the Great Barrier Reef in 2002-03.** Source: GBRMPA and Productivity Commission, Canberra, 2003

## Tourism industry contributions to the management of the Great Barrier Reef



**Figure 4: Tourism industry contributions to the management of the Great Barrier Reef.** Source: *Resourcing of Tourism and Recreation Use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*, Hassall & Associates Pty Ltd, April 2002.

## SECTION B

### Corporate Overview



## Role

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority [the GBRMPA or 'the Authority'] is the principal adviser to the Commonwealth Government on the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

## Legislation

The GBRMPA is established under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* ['the Act'] as a Commonwealth statutory authority. The objectives of the Act are set out in section 5 and specific functions of the GBRMPA are defined in sections 7 and 7A.

Regulations in force under the Act are the:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983;
- Great Barrier Reef Region [Prohibition of Mining] Regulations 1999; and
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [Aquaculture] Regulations 2000.

The GBRMPA is also subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. Section 28 of that Act requires members of the GBRMPA to ensure that policies of the Commonwealth Government notified to them in writing by the Minister are carried out in relation to the Authority.

### The Minister

The Hon Dr David Kemp MP has been Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage since the federal election in November 2001.

### Directions to the Authority from the Minister

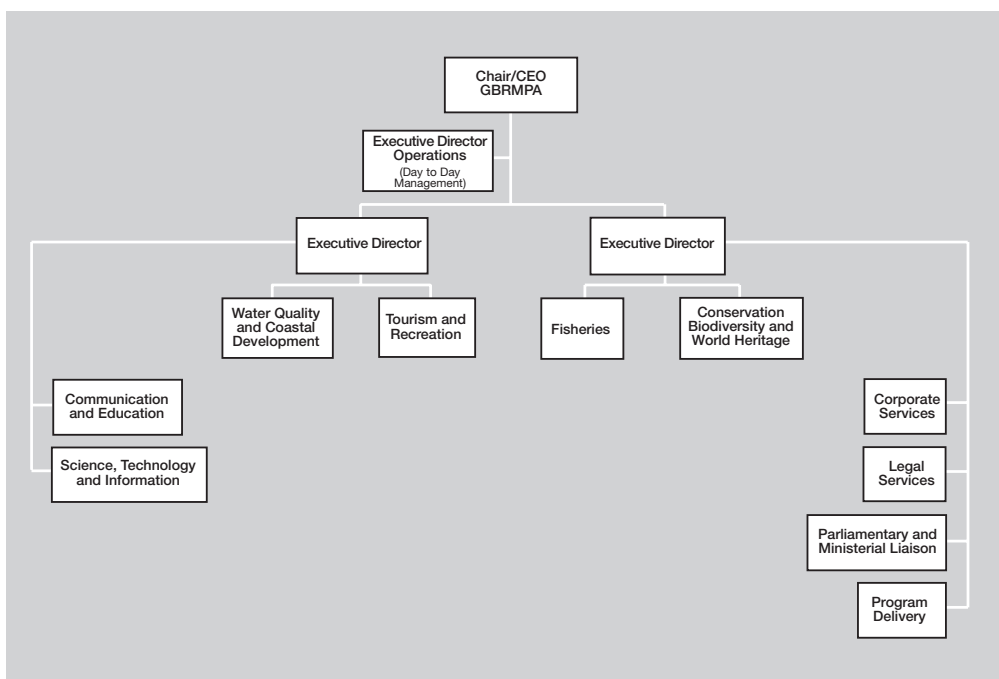
Subsection 7[2] of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* states that: 'The Authority shall perform its functions in accordance with any general directions given by the Minister not inconsistent with this Act.'

Subsection 7[3] of the Act states that:

'The Members must include in each report on the Authority under section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* particulars of any directions given by the Minister under subsection [2] of this section during the period to which the report relates.'

The Minister issued no directives relating to the work of the Authority under subsection [2] of section 7 of the Act during 2002-03.

## Organisation



**Figure 5: Organisational Chart of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.**

## Corporate governance

### Membership of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The GBRMPA consists of a full-time Chair and three part-time members. One of the part-time members is nominated by the Queensland Government. The Act provides for one of the part-time members to be appointed to represent the interests of Aboriginal communities living adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. See Appendix 1 for details of members' qualifications.

The members of the GBRMPA during 2002–03 were:

- Hon Virginia Chadwick [full-time Chair and Chief Executive]
- Dr Evelyn Scott, AO [part-time member]
- Ms Fay Barker [part-time member]
- Dr Leo Keliher [part-time member]

Mr Andrew Skeat acted as Chair during periods of absence by the Hon Virginia Chadwick: 23 – 26 December 2002 and 31 December - 12 January 2003.



Hon Virginia Chadwick

Dr Evelyn Scott

Ms Fay Barker

Dr Leo Keliher

### Plate 1: Members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Mr John Tanzer acted as Chair during periods of absence by the Hon Virginia Chadwick: 26 August – 13 September 2002.

### Audit Committee

Section 32 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* requires the directors of the Authority to establish and maintain an audit committee. The Authority established such a committee in September 1997.

The objective of the audit committee is to ensure the Authority maintains a high standard of management, both corporate and financial, and achieves its outcomes in accordance with its business strategy and strategic plans whilst carrying out its responsibilities under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. A list of Audit Committee members, attendance at meetings and issues considered is at Appendix 2.

### Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Committees

The GBRMPA has established a number of permanent committees to help execute Board responsibilities. A number of other committees are also created from time to time to deal with specific issues. All committees have terms of reference and procedures established by the Board. Committee composition and membership is reviewed as required.

### Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee was established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* as an independent advisory body for both the GBRMPA and the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the environment.

The Consultative Committee represents a wide cross-section of interests in the Great Barrier Reef [from both the public and private sectors] including tourism, fishing, science, conservation, local government and Aboriginal communities. It consists of members appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and a member of the GBRMPA appointed by the GBRMPA for an indefinite term. A list of the Consultative Committee members and meetings held is in Appendix 2.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Information on other committees, including Local Marine Advisory Committees, Reef Advisory Committees and the GBR Research Ethics Committee, that provide advice to the GBRMPA, is contained in Appendix 2.

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **Internal and external scrutiny**

Pacific Bridge Pty Ltd, through efficient and professional compliance and performance audit services, were re-appointed to provide internal audit and evaluation services during 2002-03.

In line with the Australian Government's focus on accountability and corporate governance, audit activity has concentrated on areas of high risk, the adequacy of existing control frameworks and compliance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

During the year the Risk Treatments Schedule was reviewed. The schedule outlines actions to manage risks identified in the GBRMPA Risk Management Plan. Major progress has been made in developing procedures, guidelines and providing staff training to minimise risks and to increase the awareness and use of a risk management approach.

The GBRMPA Fraud Control Plan was approved by the Board in 2002-03. Following the fraud risk assessment conducted by the internal audit contractor the fraud control plan is being reviewed to ensure that the GBRMPA has in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection procedures and processes, which meet the specific needs of the GBRMPA and comply with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines.

### **Australian National Audit Office reports**

Ernst & Young, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office [ANAO], undertook the external audit of the GBRMPA's 2002-03 Financial Statements [*See Section D*].

The GBRMPA was included in the following Auditor General's Reports tabled in Parliament during 2002-03:

- No. 22 - *Payment of Accounts and Goods and Services Tax Administration by Small Commonwealth Organisations*
- No. 25 - *Audit of the Financial Statements of Commonwealth Entities for the Period Ended 30 June 2002*
- No. 45 - *Reporting of Financial Statements and Audit Reports in Annual Reports*

The following Auditor General Reports of 2002-03 contain recommendations of relevance to the GBRMPA:

- No 13 – *Benchmarking the Internal Audit Function Follow-on Report*
- No 23 – *Protective Security Arrangements in Commonwealth Agencies*
- No 24 - *Energy Efficiency in Commonwealth Operations – Follow Up Audit*
- No 38 - *Referrals, Assessments and Approvals under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- No 41 – *Annual Reporting on Ecologically Sustainable Development*

In February 2003, the ANAO commenced a Follow Up Audit to the *Commonwealth Management of the Great Barrier Reef* [Audit Report No. 33 1997-98]. The report is expected to be published in 2003-04.

The Audit Committee was mindful of the recommendations made in reports from the Australian National Audit Office and has considered steps to implement relevant recommendations.

### Internal audit reports

The GBRMPA's Audit Committee met three times during the year and considered external and internal audit reports, a new Strategic Audit Plan for 2003-06 and a Fraud Risk Assessment. During 2002-03 internal audits were undertaken in the following areas of operation:

- Environmental Management Charge, collection and management;
- Information management – implementation of ANAO recommendations;
- Revenue collection;
- Fraud risk assessment;
- PEMS Implementation;
- General IT review;
- Human Resource Management [payroll];
- Purchasing and Procurement; and
- Financial management.

### Legal actions

Three legal actions were commenced against the GBRMPA during the year. One matter was withdrawn, one matter settled, and the other is ongoing.

### Ombudsman

Human resource management decision-making by the GBRMPA during 2002-03 was regarded as sound. The Ombudsman made no comments relating to any of the GBRMPA's permit decisions in 2002-03. There were no actions relating to the appealable selection processes and no comments were made by the



Commonwealth Ombudsman with respect to human resource management activities.

There were no other external reviews of human resource management decisions during 2002-03.

### **Freedom of Information**

The GBRMPA received nine requests for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act [Cth] 1982*. A Freedom of Information Statement is provided at Appendix 3.

### **Indemnities and insurance premiums**

Indemnity is provided to directors and officers of the GBRMPA - to the extent allowed under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* - under the coverage of the Authority's insurer, Comcover, which is a Commonwealth Government self-managed fund for insurable risk. Premiums are levied as part of the overall insurance coverage and are based on the agreed insurance value and previous-claims history.

### **Social justice and equity**

The GBRMPA continued its commitment to meeting the Government's objective of enhancing social justice and equity, outlined within the Charter of Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society. As far as practicable, the GBRMPA aims to provide all Australians with equitable access to its services in a manner appropriate to their individual needs.

The Local Marine Advisory Committees [LMACs] continued to operate effectively along the coastline adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. They provided valuable advice and input to the GBRMPA decision-making processes. LMACs provide local people with an opportunity to identify regional issues of importance as well as broader issues of concern throughout the Marine Park and to help develop policy responses to those problems. The GBRMPA monitors membership, in the interests of access and equity, and makes ongoing efforts to encourage representation from a wide range of individuals and interest groups [For more information on LMACs see Appendix 2].

The GBRMPA's relationship with Indigenous people is important. All major planning programs for the Marine Park include consultation with Indigenous communities.

During 2002-03 the major focus for consultation continued to be development and delivery of conservation programs relating to dugongs and turtles, the Representative Areas Program and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. The GBRMPA is working with the Queensland Government and Indigenous

communities to develop strategies for the co-management of marine and coastal areas.

### **GBRMPA Service Charter**

The GBRMPA's Service Charter sets out the Authority's commitment to all its customers. The Charter is available from the Public Information Unit at the GBRMPA on request. The Service Charter is also available on the Internet at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/about\\_gbrmpa/service\\_charter.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/service_charter.html)

### **Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance**

Section 516A of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 [the EPBC Act] requires Commonwealth organisations to include in their annual reports details of the organisation's contribution to ecologically sustainable development as well as the environmental performance of the organisation. Section 516A also promotes development of a framework which integrates environmental, economic and social considerations and helps improve the environmental and ecologically sustainable development performance of Commonwealth organisations. The GBRMPA's contribution to ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance is contained in Appendix 7.

### **Commonwealth Disability Strategy**

The Commonwealth Disability Strategy recognises that the Commonwealth has an impact on the lives of people with disabilities. The GBRMPA has developed a draft disability action plan, which is currently under review as part of the GBRMPA's obligation to provide an assessment of performance in implementing the Strategy framework. The revised plan will meet the new reporting requirements of the four key roles identified in the Strategy. A statement of GBRMPA's compliance with the Commonwealth Disability Strategy is contained in Appendix 8.

### **State of Affairs of the GBRMPA**

The principal activities of the GBRMPA that will be on-going from 2002-03 include:

- The Representative Areas Program [RAP] [*See Output 1.1 – Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage*];
- The updating of the State of the Reef Report Online, which is to be published online in the next financial year [*See Output 1.6 – Information for Park Management*];
- A review of the Day to Day Management of the Marine Park [*Covered in greater detail under Output 1.5 – Park Management*]; and

- A new workplace agreement developed in 2002-03, which will be certified on 2 July 2003 by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

## OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS STRUCTURE - GUIDE TO THE REPORTS

Assessing performance is about determining whether, and how well, we have achieved what we set out to do. In the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, this is done by identifying and collecting appropriate performance information. To this end, the GBRMPA has identified seven key indicators against which achievements in relation to our corporate goal and our outcomes will be assessed. In a sense, this is a transitional report: The Authority is identifying additional Key Performance Indicators, but due to the complexity

<b>Authority Goal</b> <i>To provide for the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park</i>		
<b>Component of Goal</b>	<b>Desired Outcomes expressed as Outputs</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>
Protection	Output 1.1 Conservation of the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef	KPI 1 The relative numbers of reefs that are 'healthy' compared to 'not healthy' as assessed by the AIMS Long-term Monitoring Program
	Output 1.2 Improved water quality	KPI 2 The trend in 'end of river' pollution loads for key Great Barrier Reef catchments
Wise use managed	Output 1.3 Sustainable fisheries	KPI 3 The proportion of fisheries [total fisheries vs fisheries] with management plans and arrangements that comply with the Commonwealth's guidelines for ecologically sustainable fisheries
	Output 1.5 Effective park management	KPI 5 The number of bioregions with adequate 'no take' zones.
	Output 1.6 Accurate and adequate information available for management	KPI 6 The number of technical and scientific publications published about the GBR by GBRMPA and the Reef CRC is static or increasing.
Understanding and enjoyment	Output 1.4 High quality tourism and recreation opportunities	KPI 4 Trends in number of tourists to the GBR Marine Park and their satisfaction with their experience
	Output 1.7 Improved community understanding of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	KPI 7 Public support for increasing protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

**Table 2: GBRMPA corporate Goal, Outcomes and Key Performance Indicators.**

of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, this is not a simple task. Significant scientific information is required to ensure that the KPIs selected are a true reflection of the effectiveness of the Authority in maintaining the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

### Performance information for the outcome

Table 3 [below] lists the performance information that GBRMPA will use to assess the level of its achievement of the planned Sub-outcome during 2002-03. It is comprised of two parts:

- Overall achievement - planned performance information for the outcome overall;
- Performance information for Departmental Outputs - quantitative, qualitative and price for each output – which are set out between pages 40 and 81.

### Effectiveness - Overall achievement of the outcome

The natural and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are clearly identified and protected.
The water quality objectives for the protection of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are identified in the Water Quality Action Plan, in association with the development of effective partnerships to counteract water quality decline have commenced.
There are ecologically sustainable fisheries that do not compromise the values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the World Heritage Area.
There is sustainable growth of tourism and recreation on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
Diverse opportunities for users of the Great Barrier Reef have been maintained or enhanced and displacement of users minimised.
Community support is improved through understanding and awareness of the natural, cultural and other values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

**Table 3: Performance information for the Sub-Outcome**

### Performance analysis

Table 3 above lists the performance information in the format required by the Department of Finance and Administration. The GBRMPA has a Strategic Work Program that clearly sets out Outcomes, Strategies and Outputs and relevant performance indicators at a more detailed level. The GBRMPA will use the Strategic Work Programme to assess and report on the level of achievement of its overall outcome. Information shown in Table 3 is both quantitative and qualitative. Targets for effectiveness have been included as they are applicable and appropriate for performance information for the outcome of the GBRMPA’s programmes.

Over a short time frame [one financial year] it is difficult to objectively assess the Authority's effectiveness in protecting the Great Barrier Reef. Accordingly, seven performance indicators are listed which are measures of the effectiveness of steps taken by the Authority to achieve its long-term goal.

## Seven Key Performance Indicators compared to the Portfolio Budget Statement

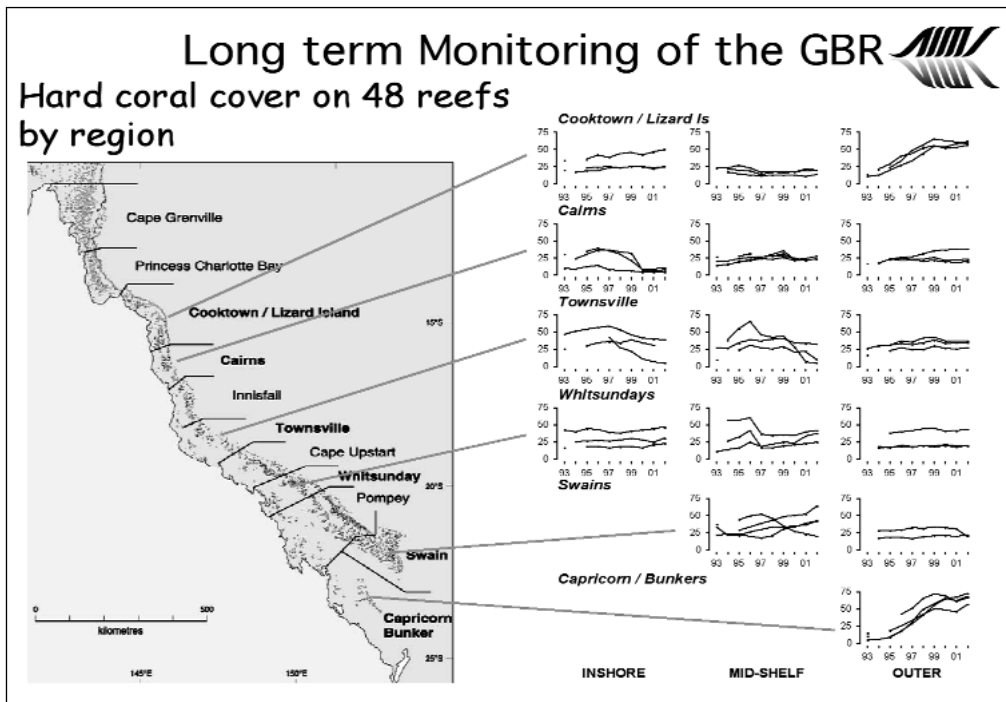
**KPI 1:** The relative numbers of reefs that are 'healthy' compared to 'not healthy' as assessed by the AIMS Long-term Monitoring Program

**What is this Indicator?** The following graph shows hard coral cover at various sites along the Great Barrier Reef recorded by the Australian Institute of Marine Science Long Term Monitoring Project [LTMP]. Each graph shows the trend in hard coral cover [the amount of substrate covered with living hard coral] at three reefs from 1993 to 2002. There is a separate graph for each section of the Great Barrier Reef and for inshore, mid-shelf and offshore reefs.

**Why is this important?** Measuring live hard coral cover at various sites along the Great Barrier Reef allows scientists and managers to detect changes in the environment. The AIMS LTMP provides regional information about the changes taking place on coral reefs in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This helps to determine the 'health' or condition of the environment and increases our understanding of the reef ecosystem.

**What does this mean?** As evident in the graphs below, the amount of live hard coral cover varies greatly from reef to reef and year to year. Coral reefs are very dynamic and the amount of hard coral cover present is affected by a wide range of factors. Cyclones, coral bleaching and crown of thorns starfish [COTS] outbreaks can cause sharp declines in coral cover but these effects may be localised, and normal recovery results in increased live coral cover in subsequent years. For example, live coral cover on some inshore and mid-shelf reefs in the Townsville sector has decreased due to the effects of the 1998 coral bleaching event and COTS outbreaks while offshore reefs in this sector have remained relatively stable. Similarly, the live coral cover at inshore reefs of the Cairns sector have also declined due to the 1998 coral bleaching event and COTS outbreaks while coral cover at sites on offshore reefs have remained fairly stable. In some cases, effects may be so localised and specific that different parts of the same reef may show extreme differences in appearance and live coral cover. As such, while these graphs provide an overview of the 'health' of the reefs being monitored, the trends in coral cover shown must be interpreted with care. Accurate interpretation of these data requires knowledge of the natural disturbances and potential pressures each reef may have

experienced. Overall, the condition of the coral reefs being monitored are as expected given natural variability and current outbreaks of COTS, with some reefs declining due to disturbance events [COTS in the Townsville sector] while others have shown steady recovery [recovery from past cyclones in the Capricorn Bunker group]. Nevertheless, some reefs have exhibited signs of concern and may be considered 'at risk' from factors such as land based pollutant runoff.



**Figure 6: Long term monitoring of hard coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef.**

**Data source:** Information on the live coral cover of various reefs is collected by the Australian Institute of Marine Science [AIMS] LTMP. Reef scientists conduct coral surveys of 52 'core' reefs every summer using a video monitoring technique. There are three study sites at each reef, and at each site the scientists video five 50m long transects. The videos are then analysed to count the number and type of coral observed and to calculate the total live hard coral cover for that reef. This is equivalent to 39 kilometres of coral reef surveyed and analysed by the LTMP team every year.

#### Related links:

- AIMS LTMP website:  
<http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/reef-monitoring-index.html>
- AIMS LTMP reports:  
<http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/projinfo.html>

- AIMS coral bleaching and COTS information: <http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/reefissues.html>
- GBRMPA coral bleaching information: [http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/science/bleaching/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/science/bleaching/index.html)
- GBRMPA information on coral reefs: <http://www.reefed.edu.au/explorer/>
- State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area report 2003 [http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/coral\\_frame.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/coral_frame.html)
- CRC Reef coral bleaching information: [http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/bleaching\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/bleaching_brochure.pdf)
- CRC Reef information on coral reefs: <http://www.reef.crc.org.au/aboutreef/coral/index.html>

## **KPI 2: Trends in Chlorophyll a concentration in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.**

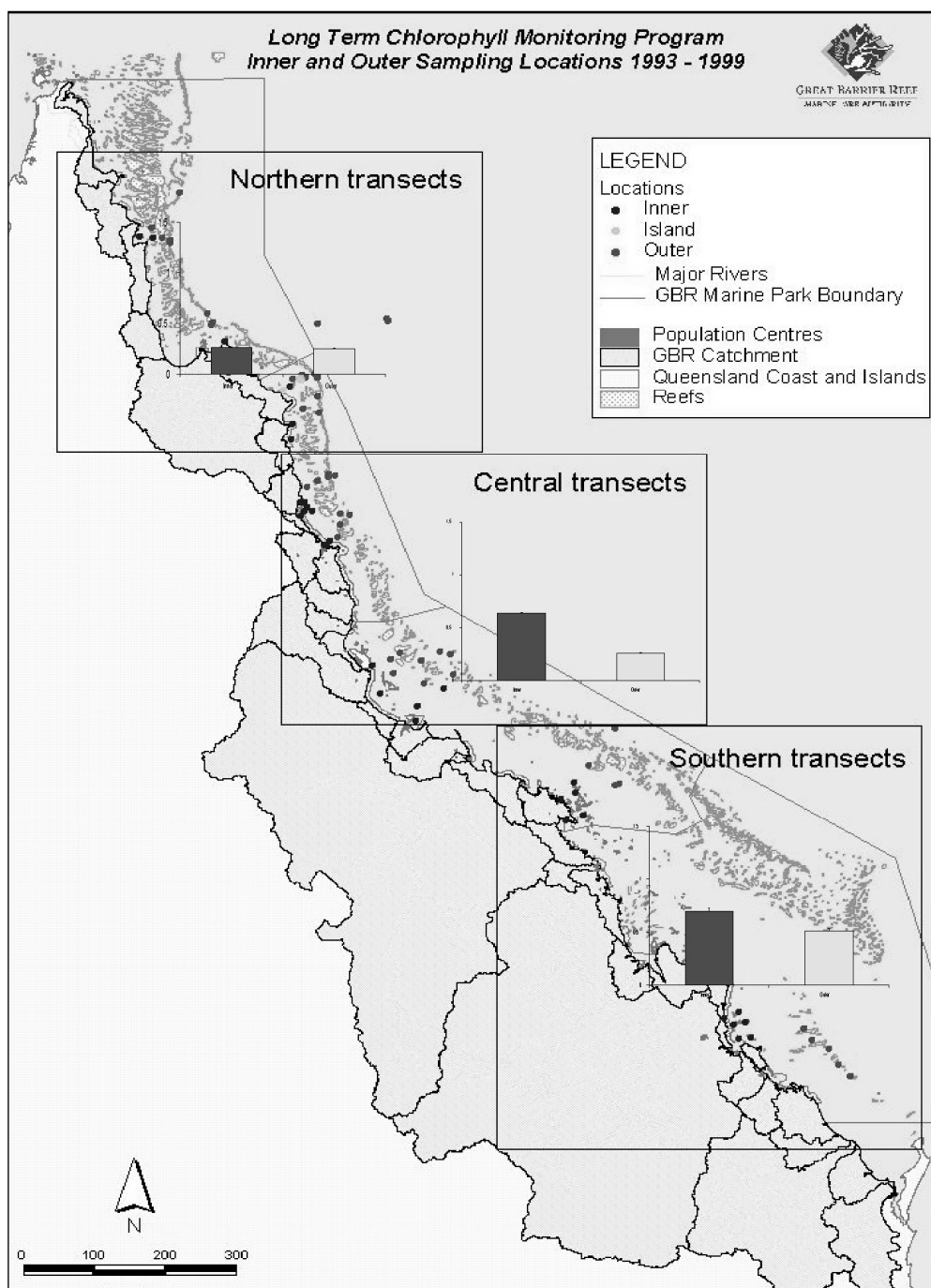
**What is this indicator?** The following graph shows the levels of chlorophyll a measured in both inshore and offshore waters of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon from 1993 to 2000 at sites in the Northern, Central and Southern regions of the Great Barrier Reef. These measurements record the concentration of phytoplankton in the water, which provides an indication of the concentration of nutrients present in the water column.

**Why is this important?** When nutrients from the land enter the waters of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon, they are rapidly taken up by phytoplankton living in the water. Phytoplankton reproduce more quickly when more nutrients are available and thus the quantity of phytoplankton present is an accurate indicator of the concentrations of nutrients in the water.

While coral reefs close to the coast are adapted to higher nutrient concentrations than offshore reefs, excessive exposure to nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous can be harmful to these inshore reefs. High nutrient concentrations have been shown to upset the ecological balance of coral reefs, reduce the physical strength of coral skeletons, slow down the recovery of coral reefs damaged by storms, Crown of Thorns Starfish outbreaks or coral bleaching, and reduce the fertilisation rates and embryo formation of corals.

**What does this mean?** The three graphs presenting chlorophyll a concentrations are for different regions of the Great Barrier Reef. It is clear that chlorophyll a concentrations in the inshore waters of the Great Barrier Reef are consistently higher than those in offshore areas. Similarly, the chlorophyll a concentrations in





**Figure 7: Long-term Chlorophyll Monitoring Program – Inner and Outer sampling locations 1993-99.** Source: Devlin, M., Waterhouse, J., and Haynes, D. [1999]. Long-term monitoring of chlorophyll in the Great Barrier Reef: an update. Reef Research 9, 21-24.



the Southern and Central regions are much higher than that for the Northern region.

The northern catchments [Cape York] are essentially undisturbed with only limited cropping, and with grazing that is carried out at low stocking levels. In contrast, the Central and Southern sections are characterised by high levels of agricultural activity including intensive cropping activities in the lower catchments, the destruction of coastal wetlands and cattle grazing at high stocking rates in the upper, inland catchments. The amount of fertiliser used in coastal areas has also sharply increased in recent years. These activities have resulted in increased nutrient loads entering the inshore waters, and this is reflected by the higher concentrations of chlorophyll a recorded in these regions compared with the relatively undisturbed northern region. Chlorophyll a monitoring requires a long-term data set.

#### Related links

- The Science Report is at [www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/science/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/science/index.html)
- The Productivity Commission Report is at [www.pc.gov.au/study/gbr/finalreport/index.html](http://www.pc.gov.au/study/gbr/finalreport/index.html)
- The Reef Protection Plan is at [www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/index.html)
- The MOU is at [www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/mou/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/mou/index.html)
- The Reef CRC site regarding current knowledge is at [www.reef.crc.org.au/aboutreef/coastal/waterquality\\_consensus.html](http://www.reef.crc.org.au/aboutreef/coastal/waterquality_consensus.html)

**KPI 3: The proportion of fisheries [total fisheries vs well managed fisheries] with management plans and arrangements that comply with the Commonwealth's guidelines for ecologically sustainable fisheries**

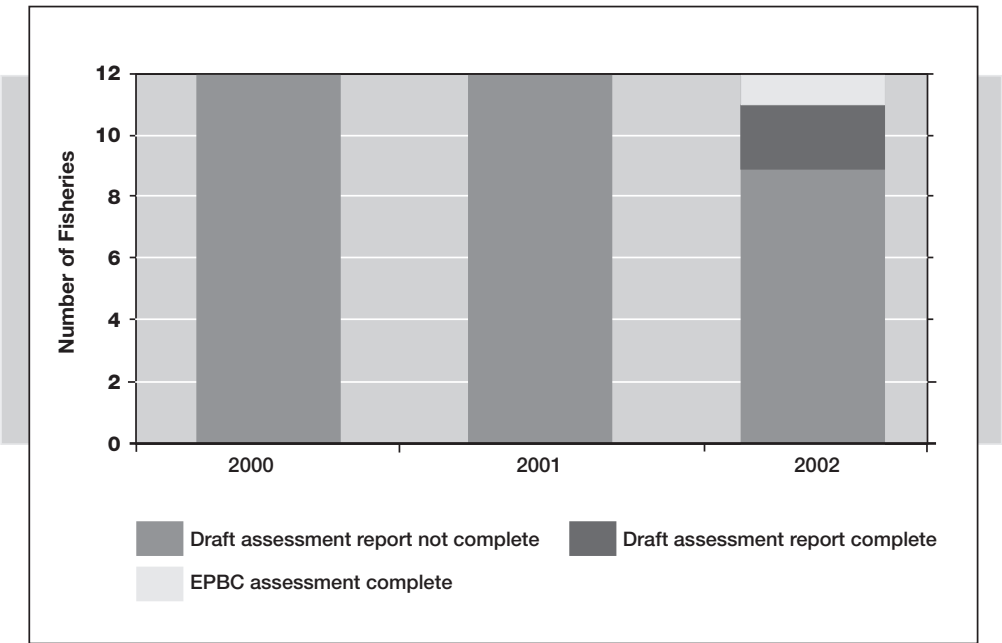
**What is this indicator?** The graph below shows the progress made towards accreditation of fisheries within the Great Barrier Reef with the Commonwealth guidelines for sustainable fisheries. This is an indication of the number of fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef that have management regimes that are considered likely to deliver ecological sustainability.

#### **Why is this important?**

Under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement, the Queensland Fisheries Service [QFS] is responsible for management of fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef region. The GBRMPA works closely with the QFS to ensure that fishing practices are appropriate for a World Heritage Area. Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* [EPBC], many commercial

fisheries in the GBR are being assessed by the Department of Environment and Heritage [DEH] against the principles of the ecologically sustainable fisheries management. The GBRMPA works with the QFS and the DEH during these assessments. The two management principles against which fisheries are assessed are:

- A fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing, or for those stocks that are over-fished, the fishery must be conducted such that there is a high degree of probability the stock[s] will recover.
- Fishing operations should be managed to minimise their impact on the structure, productivity, function and biological diversity of the ecosystem.



**Figure 8: Progress in accreditation of fisheries through Commonwealth Fisheries Guidelines.** Source: Details about the assessment of fisheries under the EPBC Act [1999] sourced from EA CatchUp Number 6, February 2003. This is the newsletter of Environment Australia’s [now Department of Environment and Heritage] Sustainable Fisheries Section.

The only fisheries that could be considered appropriate in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area are those that are ecologically sustainable. As such, assessment of fisheries for ecological sustainability under the EPBC Act [1999] will help to meet the goals of the GBRMPA.

### What does this mean?

Assessment of fisheries began in 2000. To date only the spanner crab fishery has

been assessed while the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery currently is being reviewed. The QFS is still preparing documentation required under the EPBC Act for the remaining GBR fisheries.

**Related links:**

- Environment Australia [now Department of Environment and Heritage] Sustainable Fisheries Section:  
<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/fisheries>
- GBRMPA fisheries:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/fisheries/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/fisheries/index.html)
- State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area report 1998  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/fisheries\\_frame.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/fisheries_frame.html)

**KPI 4: Trends in number of tourists to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and their satisfaction with their experience**

**What is this indicator?** This Key Performance Indicator allows us to consider the effectiveness of our management strategies aimed at ensuring a wide range of opportunities for tourists to access and enjoy the Marine Park.

**Why is this important?** Presentation is one of the four core responsibilities in managing a World Heritage Area. Many tourists rely on the tourism industry to not only provide transport into the Marine Park, but also to provide information and commentary about the Marine Park and its World Heritage values. Both commercially carried tourists and private recreational users are seeking a wide range of opportunities to use and enjoy the Marine Park. Ultimately, our effectiveness in providing sustainable growth of tourism and recreation opportunities is reflected in the number of tourists visiting the Marine Park and their overall satisfaction.

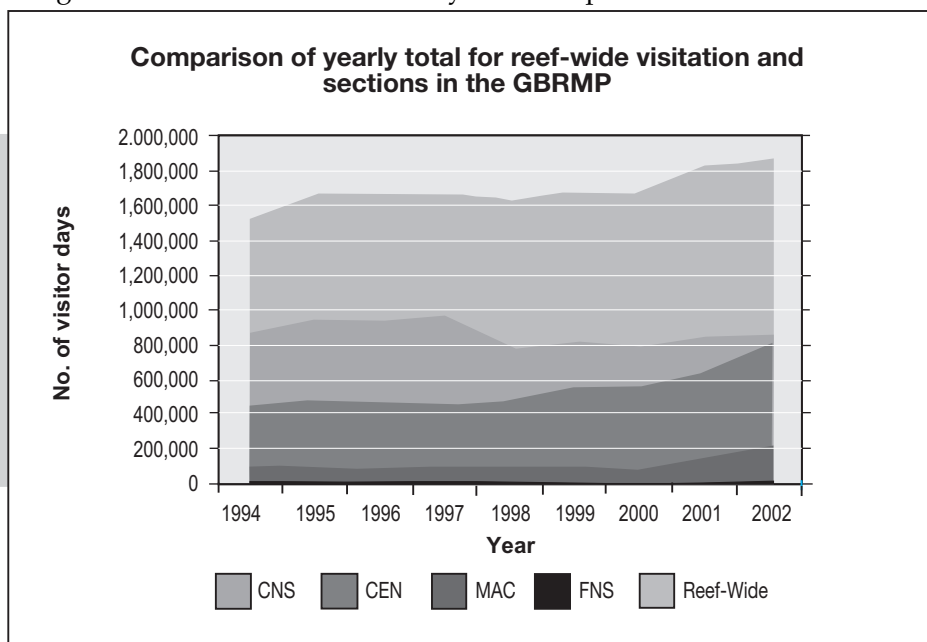
**What have been the trends?**

*Visitation*

Trends in the number of visitor days to the Marine Park from 1994 to 2002 are presented in Figure 9. Over this period there has been an upward trend in the level of general visitation to the Marine Park. The decline in the Cairns Section in 1998 can be attributed principally to the Asian economic crisis. Recent changes in global patterns of tourism are not reflected in overall tourism numbers, but may explain a change in the ratio of international to domestic visitors.

There has been relatively static visitor numbers for the Cairns Section in recent

years, compared to strong growth in the Central Section [especially the Whitsundays area] and an upward trend in the Mackay/Capricorn Section. This may be the result of an increasing proportion of domestic visitors and an increase in the number of repeat visitors, combined with a move away from larger, more generalist reef operations to smaller, more specialised operations and a greater demand for more variety in reef experiences.

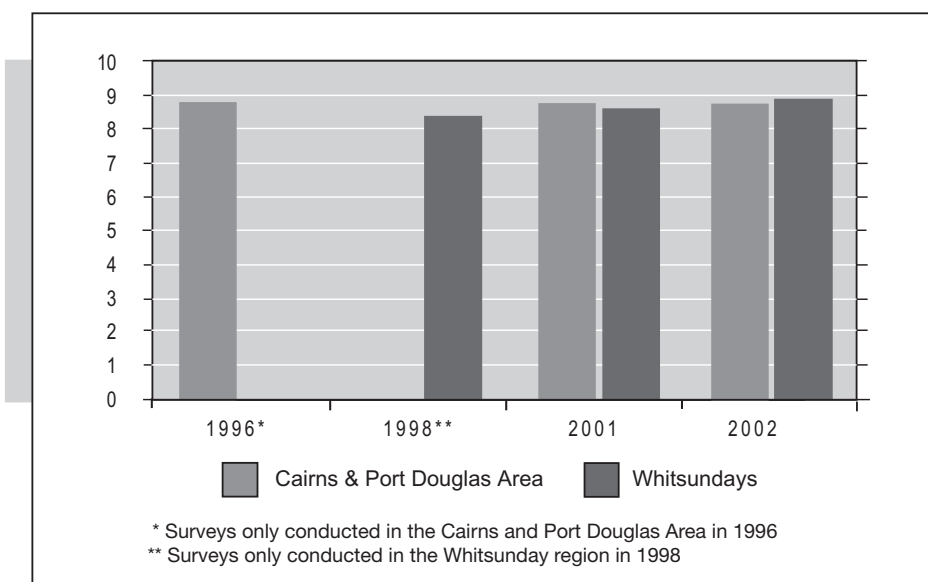


**Figure 9: Annual visitation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**  
Data Source: Environmental Management Charge data returns held by the GBRMPA.

### *Satisfaction*

Trends in the satisfaction of tourists with their experience are presented in Figure 10. Tourists have reported high levels of overall enjoyment of their visit to the Marine Park with 84% of tourists in 2001 and 85% of tourists in 2002 giving their trip a score of eight or higher out of 10 [mean of 8.7 and 8.8 respectively]. Approximately three quarters of tourists in both years reported that they would definitely recommend the trip to friends and family.

Since 1996, tourists to the Marine Park on commercial tourism operations have been consistently satisfied with their experience and this is a positive sign that the Marine Park is being enjoyed. This trend was also reflected by respondents to a phone survey conducted in 2001 in the capital cities of eastern Australia and regions adjacent to the Marine Park. Of respondents who had visited the Marine Park, 73% stated that the trip met their expectations and 13% stated that their visit was better than expected. The average satisfaction rating was 8.3 out of 10.



**Figure 10: Trends in tourist satisfaction 1996-02.**

Data Source: CRC Reef Visitor Survey Data.

In 2001 and 2002, tourists were asked to rate six aspects of their Marine Park experience [Figure 11]. While most tourists considered each of these aspects to be about right, significantly more tourists in 2002 felt there were too many people present and this trend was also evident in relation to the number of boats.

### Further reading

Green, D., Moscardo, G., Greenwood, T., Pearce, P., Arthur, M., Clark, A. & Woods, B. [1999] *Understanding Public Perceptions of the Great Barrier Reef and its Management*. CRC Reef Research Centre, Technical Report No. 29. CRC Reef Research Centre, 64pp.

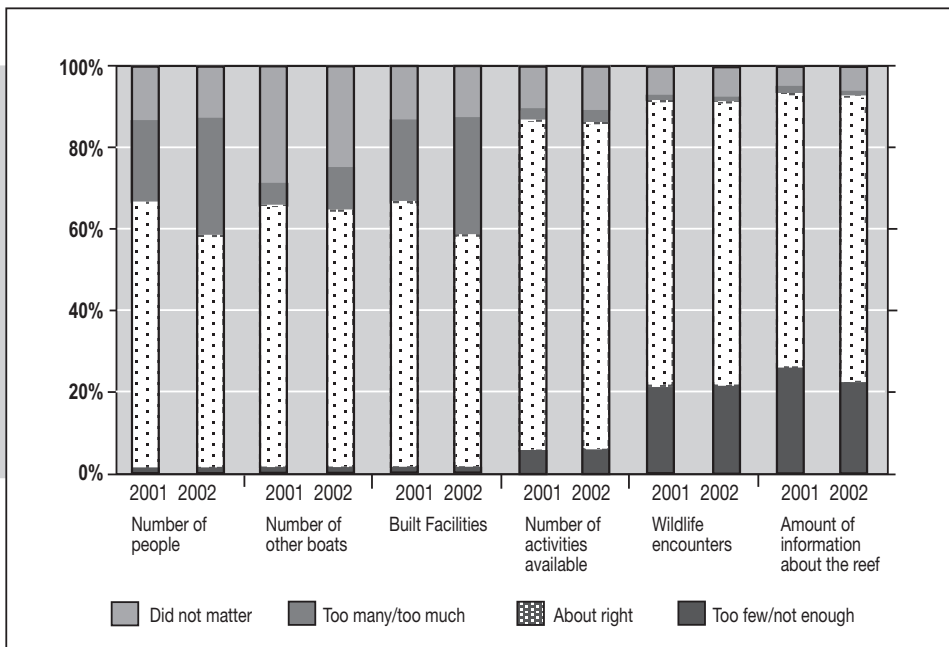
McCoy, A. [2003]. *Understanding Great Barrier Reef Visitors: Comparing visitors of 2001 and 2002*. CRC Reef Research Project B2.1.1 Data Summary Report.

Moscardo, G. [2001]. *Public perceptions of the management of the Great Barrier Reef 2001*. CRC Reef Research Project B2.5 Data Summary Report.

Moscardo, G., Saltzer R., Galletly, A., Burke, A., [2003]. *Changing patterns of reef tourism*. CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report No. 49, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville.

Productivity Commission [2003], *Industries, Land Use and Water Quality in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment*, Research Report, Canberra.

Saltzer, R. [2002]. *Understanding Great Barrier Reef Visitors: Factors that contribute to visitor satisfaction*. CRC Reef Research Project B2.1.1 Data Summary Report.



**Figure 11: Response to aspects of Marine Park visit.**

Data Source: McCoy, A. [2003]. *Understanding Great Barrier Reef Visitors: Comparing visitors of 2001 and 2002*. CRC Reef Research Project B2.1.1 Data Summary Report.

## Related Links

### GBRMPA Website

- Tourism and Recreation:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/tourism/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/tourism/index.html)
- State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area 2003:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr)
- Environmental Management Charge [EMC]:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/permits/emc.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/permits/emc.html)

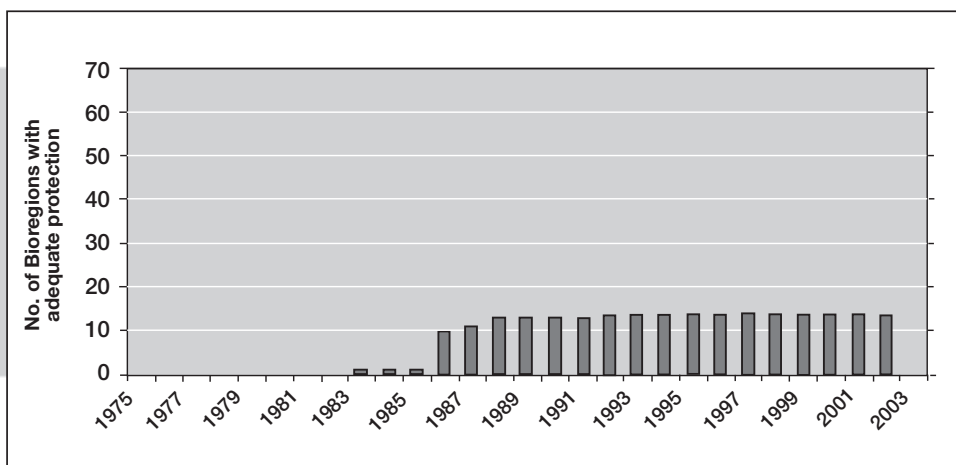
### CRC Reef website

- Sustainable Tourism:  
<http://www.reef.crc.org.au/research/sustaintour/index.html>
- Publications about perceptions and experiences of the Great Barrier Reef  
<http://www.reef.crc.org.au/research/sustaintour/results/b25.html#>

### KPI 5: The number of bioregions with adequate 'no take' zones

**What is this indicator?** The following graph [Figure 12] shows the number of the 70 separate bioregions identified by the GBRMPA Representative Areas Program [RAP] that currently have adequate protection.

**Why is this important?** A key tool in the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [GBRMP] is a system of zoning. This zoning system includes 'no take' areas where extractive activities are not allowed, ensuring that plants and animals are fully protected to preserve the function and integrity of the ecosystem. It is recognised that the current zoning regime for the GBRMP [<5% designated as a highly protected area] is inadequate for protection of the wide range of biodiversity in the Great Barrier Reef. To correct this imbalance, the GBRMPA commenced the Representative Areas Program [RAP] in 1998 to ensure that a representative part of every type of bioregion [an individual region with a specific mix of biological and physical traits] found within the GBRMP has adequate protection. This would ensure the ecological functions, inter-connectivity and biodiversity of the entire ecosystem are protected. Scientists identified 70 individual bioregions in 1999 and recommended that in order to adequately protect biodiversity and ecosystem function, a minimum of 20% of each bioregion should be designated as protected 'no take' areas. What does this mean? The number of protected areas has increased since the establishment of the GBRMP Act in 1975. The first zoning plan was introduced in 1983 and as new zoning plans have been introduced, the number of bioregions with an adequate amount of protection has risen to 14. To achieve the recommendations made by the RAP Scientific Steering Committee, all 70 bioregions should have a minimum of 20% protection.



**Figure 12: Bioregions with adequate protection in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.** Source: Data sourced from the Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage group and Spatial Data Centre at the GBRMPA.

Under the Draft Zoning Plan released for public comment in June 2003, all bioregions were proposed at 20% or higher.

**Related links:**

- Zoning for the GBRMP:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/management/zoning\\_and\\_plans\\_of\\_management.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning_and_plans_of_management.html)
- Representative Areas for the GBRMP  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/conservation/rep\\_areas/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/conservation/rep_areas/index.html)
- State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area report 1998  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/inter\\_reefal\\_frame.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/inter_reefal_frame.html)
- Environment Australia [now Department of Environment and Heritage] National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas  
<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/nrsmmpa/index.html>

**KPI 6: The number of technical and scientific publications published about the GBR by GBRMPA and the Reef CRC is static or increasing.**

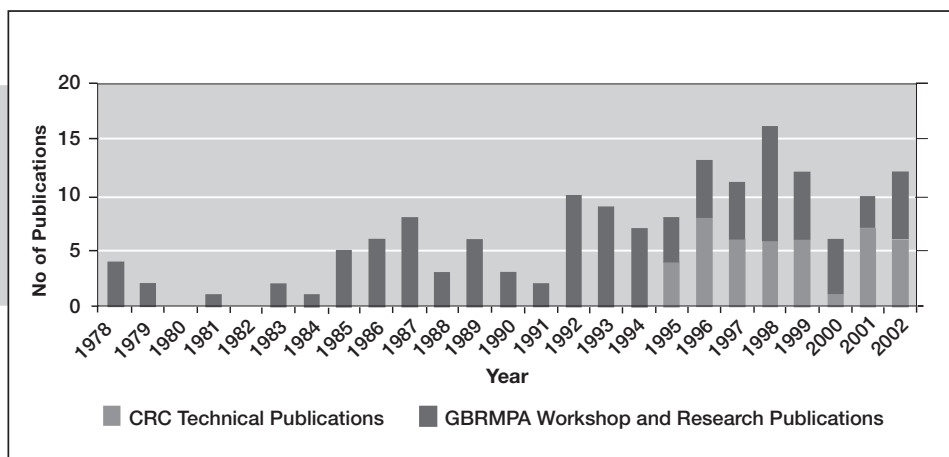
**What is this indicator?** The graph below [Figure 13] shows the number of Research Publications, Technical Papers, Workshop Papers and Technical Reports published by the GBRMPA and the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area [Reef CRC] since 1978.

**Why is this important?** One of the GBRMPA's corporate goals is to promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef and the issues affecting its health and management. The GBRMPA makes a significant contribution to scientific research in the Great Barrier Reef to better understand the ecosystem and the effects of human activities. The Reef CRC is the GBRMPA's primary research provider and carries out the majority of the GBRMPA's research program. Both the GBRMPA and Reef CRC have a reputation for publishing high quality, freely accessible scientific reports, which document the research undertaken and promote understanding of the GBR. The number of scientific publications released reflects the amount of information available to help the community understand the Great Barrier Reef and the issues affecting it.

**What does this mean?** The number of publications released by both the GBRMPA and Reef CRC has increased steadily over the years. However the actual number of publications varies from year to year due to the varied nature of the research undertaken. Some research projects take more time to complete



and reports vary in both size and complexity. In 2002, scientific and technical reports were published on-line on both the GBRMPA and Reef CRC websites. In time, the entire range of published scientific reports will be freely accessible from the Internet.



**Figure 13: Technical publications produced by GBRMPA.** Data source: Information compiled by the Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit at the GBRMPA. Note: Both the GBRMPA and the Reef CRC also regularly publish information sheets and pamphlets on particular issues or research projects to help promote understanding of the GBR.

### Related links:

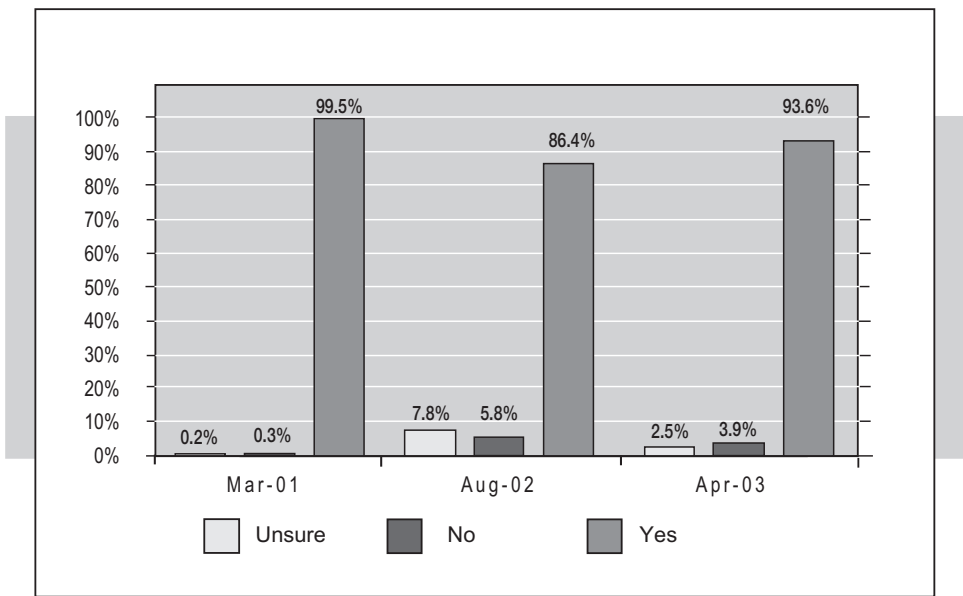
- State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area 1998  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/)
- GBRMPA Research Publications Series  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/research\\_publications/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/research_publications/index.html)
- GBRMPA staff papers search  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/library/resources/staff\\_papers/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/library/resources/staff_papers/)
- CRC Reef Research Centre Publications  
<http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/index.html>

**KPI 7: Public support for increased protection of the GBR**

**What is this indicator?** The following graph [Figure 14] shows the level of public support for greater protection of the Great Barrier Reef measured from the results of a telephone survey of 1600 respondents on the Great Barrier Reef coast in March 2001, August 2002 and April 2003.

**Why is this important?** Before implementing far-reaching policy such as the Representative Areas Program, it is important to ascertain public attitudes to issues such as greater protection for the Great Barrier Reef. Accordingly, the GBRMPA commissioned the AEC Group to conduct independent market research to determine people’s views. As part the survey, respondents were asked whether they supported increased protection for the Great Barrier Reef.

**What does this mean?** The three surveys have consistently shown an extraordinarily high level of popular support for greater protection of the Great Barrier Reef. The highest level, recorded in the March 2001 survey, indicated 99.5 per cent of respondents wanted greater protection for the Great Barrier Reef. The level dropped to 86.4 per cent in August 2002, corresponding to the public debate surrounding the first public consultation phase of the Representative Areas Program. By April 2003, following extensive television



**Figure 14: Public support for increased protection of the Great Barrier Reef.** Source: AEC Group [March 2001] *Market Research for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority*, AEC Townsville, 50pp. AEC Group [August 2002] *Market Research for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority*, AEC Townsville, 47pp. AEC Group [April 2003] *Market Research for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority*. *Coastal Research - 2003*, AEC Townsville, 75pp.

and newspaper promotion through Reef Champions, Reef Watch and Reef Beat of the issues facing the reef, public support for greater protection for the Great Barrier Reef had again climbed above 90 per cent, reaching 93.6 per cent support.

**Further reading:**

Green D., Moscardo, G., Greenwood, T., Pearce, P., Arthur, M., Clark, A. & Woods, B. [1999] *Understanding Public Perceptions of the Great Barrier Reef and its Management*. CRC Reef Research Centre, Technical report No. 29. Townsville; CRC Reef Research Centre, 64pp.

Moscardo G. 2001. *Public perceptions of the management of the Great Barrier Reef*. CRC Reef Research Project B2.5 Data Summary Report. [B2.5]

**Related links:**

- GBRMPA Tourism and Recreation website  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/tourism/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/tourism/index.html)
- CRC Reef publications about perceptions and experiences of the Great Barrier Reef  
<http://www.reef.crc.org.au/research/sustaintour/results/b25.html#>
- CRC Reef Sustainable Tourism website  
<http://www.reef.crc.org.au/research/sustaintour/index.html>

## SECTION C

### Report on Operations



## Executive

### Executive

	Outcome	Strategic outputs	Performance
	To provide strategic planning, resource allocation and accountable management for the Authority, its operations and external relationships in pursuit of the control, care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.	1. Provide a clear vision and strategic targets that are understood by all staff and stakeholders.	Achieved
		2. Ensure compliance with external imposed obligations.	In Progress
		3. To have the Authority recognised as a national and international leader in marine and coastal environment management.	Achieved
		4. To respond flexibly to the needs of the community and Government.	Achieved
		5. Ensure strong working relationships with major clients and the community based on good communication and clear policies.	Achieved

### Performance analysis

This is the fifth year of operation for the organisational structure based around the main critical issues identified for conservation and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The four critical issue groups are:

- Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage;
- Water Quality and Coastal Development;
- Fisheries; and
- Tourism and Recreation.

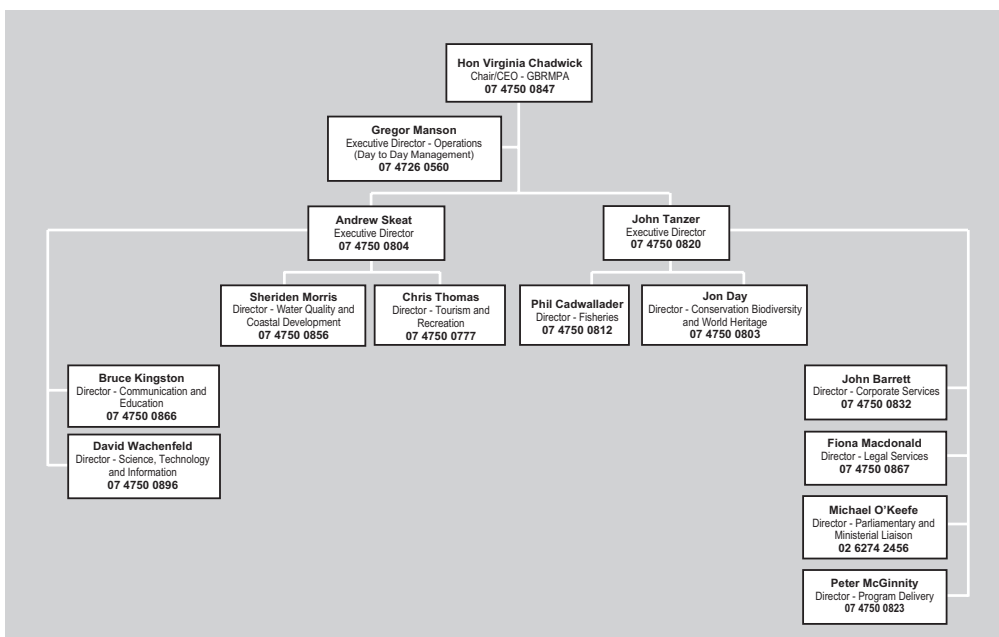
Five service groups support the work of the Critical Issues Groups. They are:

- Program Delivery;
- Corporate Services;
- Information Support;
- Day-to-Day Management; and
- Communication and Education Coordination.

The Executive Group consists of the Chair and Chief Executive Officer, the Hon Virginia Chadwick and the two Executive Directors, John Tanzer and Andrew Skeat. The Chair is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the GBRMPA, its governance, chairing the Authority Board, and managing the organisation.

Sectional responsibilities have been divided between the two Executive Directors. John Tanzer is responsible for Fisheries; Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage; Corporate Services; Program Delivery; and Executive Services. Andrew Skeat is responsible for Water Quality and Coastal Development; Tourism and Recreation; Communication and Education Coordination [including Reef HQ]; and Science, Technology and Information Group.

The Executive Group and the Directors of each of the major work areas form a Senior Management Team, which is an important part of managing the GBRMPA, and is responsible for developing policy, coordinating programs, internal communications and budget control. Senior Managers are not only concerned with the day-to-day running of their own areas, but also with managing the intersections arising from the matrix structure. The members of the Senior Management Team and their areas of responsibility are shown in Figure 15.



**Figure 15: Membership of the GBRMPA Senior Management Team.**

The Senior Management Team, under the direction of the Chair, meets formally each fortnight and informally on alternate fortnights. In addition it meets half yearly over two days to review performance and set program and budget priorities.

Overall, this structure has worked well, especially in ensuring a clear focus for the GBRMPA on those critical issues of greatest environmental significance to

the Marine Park and its capacity to support a range of ecosystem services. The GBRMPA's work programs focus directly on addressing the major threats to the Reef and ensuring its use is sustainable.

The GBRMPA continues to give high priority to forging and maintaining relationships with major stakeholders and the broader community. The Executive Group seeks to negotiate outcomes with stakeholders and works to maintain support on issues pertinent to management of the Marine Park. The two-tiered system of advisory committees continues to improve communication between stakeholders and the GBRMPA, and to assist with policy formulation. There is an advisory committee for each Critical Issues Group. The role of these committees is to advise the Chair on major policy matters relating to each critical issue and to provide a transparent forum for the different stakeholder groups to set out their interests. Ten Local Marine Advisory Committees [LMACs] from communities adjacent to the Marine Park, advise the GBRMPA on local issues. These committees also provide a forum for the GBRMPA to inform local communities about the Authority's programs.

The Executive provides advice for Senate Estimates Committee meetings on parliamentary questions, and to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

Steps to improve water quality and the health of the Great Barrier Reef have taken a major step forward with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard, and Premier of Queensland, the Hon Peter Beattie, on 13 August 2002, which aims to halt the decline in water quality entering the Reef over the next ten years *[For further information, see Output 1.2 – Water quality and coastal development]*.

The Representative Areas Program, which aims to increase the level of protection for biodiversity and is driving a comprehensive rezoning of the Park, has been the principal activity of the agency during the past financial year *[See also Output 1.1 – Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage]*.

The GBRMPA continues to be recognised nationally and internationally for its work in managing the marine environment, natural resources and coral reefs. It has continued to play an active role in the International Coral Reef Initiative, with the Executive acting as a point of contact.

### **International Interest in GBRMPA Activities**

The work of the GBRMPA continued to receive exposure in a variety of fora within the international tropical marine ecosystems community. Through the year, the GBRMPA continued to be a strong contributor to the work of the International Coral Reef Initiative and GBRMPA staff presented several key papers at the *2nd International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium* held in Manila, the Philippines, in March. In addition, the GBRMPA

hosted a range of official visitors including the Administrator of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher USN [Rtd].

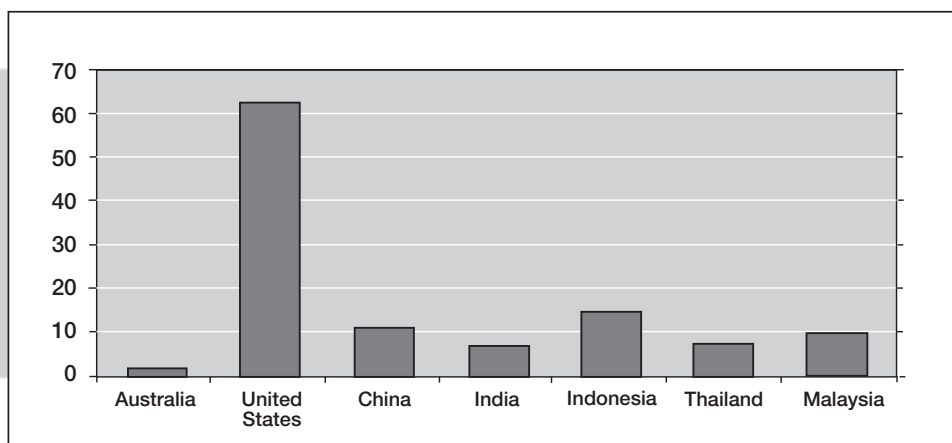


Figure 16: International visitors to GBRMPA in 2002-03. Source: GBRMPA 2003.

## Legal Services

The Legal Services Unit provides and coordinates provision of legal advice and services to the GBRMPA, and helps develop policy. In addition, the Unit provides legal assistance to officers of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the Australian Federal Police and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol relating to day-to-day management issues. In general, the scope of the legal advice provided is broad, covering such diverse areas as environmental law, contracts, intellectual property, administrative law, international law, and native title.

The Unit is responsible for managing preparation and amendment of legislation and liaison with external service providers, including the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. The Unit coordinates all litigation in which the GBRMPA is involved and processes all freedom of information requests.

### Performance analysis

Significant achievements for 2002-03 include:

- Conducting legal awareness training for GBRMPA officers;
- Providing legal support for legal proceedings in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the Federal Court of Australia, the Supreme Court of



Queensland, the Queensland Court of Appeal, and the Magistrates Court of Queensland;

- Providing legal support in relation to preparing the draft Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan, the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management and the Gumoo Woojabuddee Section Zoning Plan, together with the preparation of regulations giving effect to the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management and supporting the Gumoo Woojabuddee Section Zoning Plan;
- Coordinating amendments to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*;
- Processing nine Freedom of Information requests; and
- Providing an effective legal support for branch operations and achievement of corporate objectives.

One of the objectives of the Legal Services Unit is to minimise the GBRMPA's involvement in litigation by providing timely and effective legal advice and legal awareness training for GBRMPA staff.

The Unit conducted training in relation to legislation relevant to the GBRMPA's management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and contract management. One-on-one coaching, in respect of contracts and other legal issues, was also provided.

The Unit managed several pieces of litigation over the course of the year: five in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, two in the Supreme Court of Queensland, one in the Queensland Court of Appeal, one in the Magistrates Court of Queensland, and assisted the Commonwealth of Australia with respect to one piece of litigation in the Federal Court of Australia. The GBRMPA received one decision in its favour, three actions were withdrawn or settled in the GBRMPA's favour, one matter was settled in favour of the plaintiff, one matter is likely to settle, and two actions are ongoing.

## Ministerial services and parliamentary liaison

### Performance analysis

The Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison Unit comprises two permanent staff located within the Department of Environment and Heritage offices in Canberra. The Unit provides liaison between the Authority and the office of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Department of the Environment and Heritage, and other Commonwealth agencies based in Canberra.

	Outcome	Outputs	Performance
	Effective liaison and productive relationships with ministers, portfolio members and government agencies, and to provide effective, professional support to the Executive and the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council.	1 Facilitate liaison between Commonwealth and State Government policies impacting on the Great Barrier Reef.	Achieved
		2 Provide professional support to Committees, Ministerial Councils and the Commonwealth Government.	Achieved

The Unit coordinates Ministerial briefings for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and assists in providing answers to parliamentary questions and ministerial representations. The Unit also prepares briefing documents for the GBRMPA's appearances before Parliamentary Committees and provides the Secretariat for the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council and its official committees.

A major focus of the Unit's work entails liaison with relevant Commonwealth government agencies and non-government organisations on the GBRMPA's legislation, policies and programs. The Unit also coordinates responses on whole-of-government approaches and issues that impact on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

In 2002 the Unit was responsible for liaison with Commonwealth Government agencies on the Representative Areas Program, and specifically the RAP Sub-Committee of the Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas Committee. The Unit provided secretariat support for the 31st meeting of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council meeting in Brisbane on 12 June 2003.

The Unit represents the Authority on the Operations Policy and Advisory Committee [OPAC], and Programs and Scheduling Committee [PASC] of Coastwatch/Customs, the Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas Committee [COMPAC], and on other Interdepartmental Committees as required.

## DEPARTMENTAL OUTPUTS

### Output 1.1 Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage

Protection of the natural and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and maintenance of the World Heritage values, are being achieved by protecting threatened species, and providing a new network of no-take areas which ensures adequate representation of all habitat types and considers social, economic and cultural information.

#### OUTPUT GROUP 1.1 - CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND WORLD HERITAGE

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.1.1	Natural and cultural values protected and World Heritage obligations are met	Quality	Key species and habitats identified and protected whilst minimising any social-economic-cultural impacts.	In progress
		Quantity	Improved management for key threatened species. Substantial progress completed in the Representatives areas program including involvement of stakeholders in selecting 'candidate area networks'.	Achieved
			Improved understanding of social-economic-cultural characteristics/values in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.	Achieved
			Consideration of relevant species and habitat conservation matters in permit/approval deliberations affecting World Heritage values.	Achieved
			Increased public awareness of World Heritage values/obligations.	Achieved
		Price	\$1.383m	

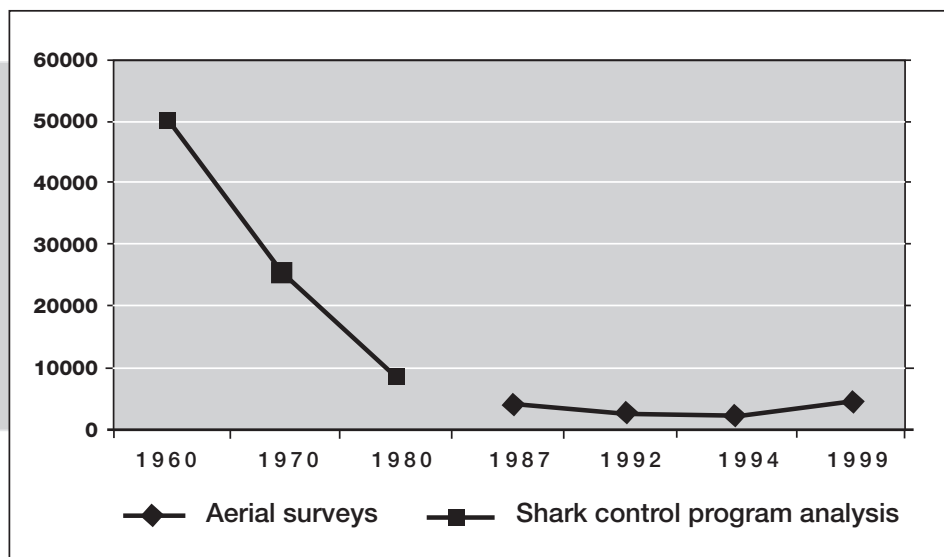
### Performance analysis

#### *Threatened species*

The GBRMPA is one of a number of agencies involved in identifying threats and coordinating and facilitating conservation programs for threatened species. In recent years the conservation of dugongs, turtles, dolphins and whales has been given priority. There is now a strong interagency approach to managing these species, together with continuous assessment of their status and management.

### *Dugong recovery and conservation*

Dugong conservation continued to be imperative this year because of the reported declines in the population along the urban coast of Queensland.



**Figure 17: Dugong records from aerial surveys and shark control program analysis on the Great Barrier Reef [Note: Indicative only; interpretation based upon Marsh et. al. 2001]**

Other measures in 2002-03 towards dugong conservation included:

- Compilation of a draft compendium of information on dugongs;
- Managing research contract investigating indices for body condition in dugongs; and
- Publishing Research Publication 77 on the GBRMPA website <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au>
- Consideration of a permit on a trial basis for commercial dugong watching in the Marine Park.

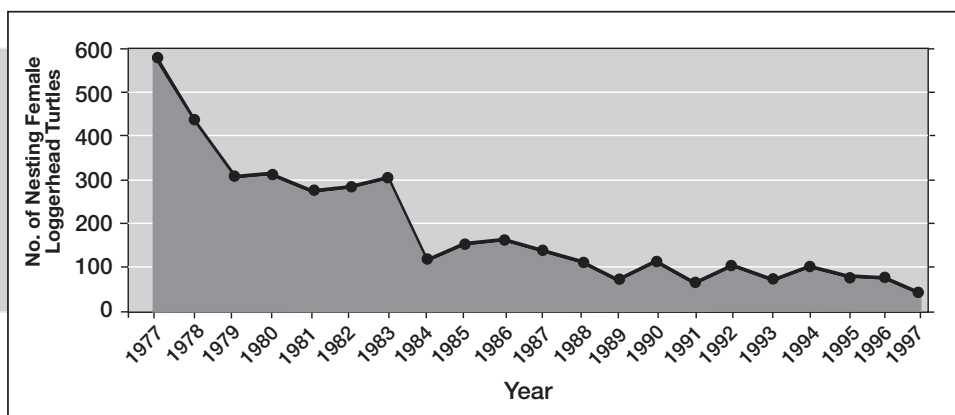
### *Turtle conservation*

All six species of turtle on the Great Barrier Reef are listed in various categories of endangerment. There is rising concern for the loggerhead turtle, which has declined significantly in breeding numbers over the past 30 years and for the breeding status of green and hawksbill turtles.

The GBRMPA has enhanced its turtle conservation initiatives in 2002-03 by:

- Continuing to work towards a Marine Turtle Conservation Strategy by incorporating recommendations from the Draft National Turtle Recovery Plan and considering human-related impacts specific to the Marine Park;

- Convening and co-chairing the Interagency Turtle Issues Steering Committee comprising representatives of the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], Department of Environment and Heritage and the GBRMPA;
- Continuing to manage a contract that helps monitor green turtles in their feeding ground at Shoalwater Bay;
- Publishing Research Publication 81 on the GBRMPA's website; and
- Initiating a process with EPA to develop a 5 Year joint funding approach to GBR turtle monitoring and research.



**Figure 18: Nesting female loggerhead turtles at Wreck Island.**

Source: Col Limpus, QPWS, in D. Wachenfeld [1998] *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area*.

#### *Whale and dolphin conservation*

Implementation of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Policy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, adopted in March 2000, is proceeding. Actions in 2002-03 included:

- Provision of educational information to commercial and recreational whale-watchers;
- Initiating Regulations to complement EPBC Regulations for interactions with cetaceans including whale watching; and
- Granting of nine tourist program permits to allow activities involving swimming with dwarf minke whales.

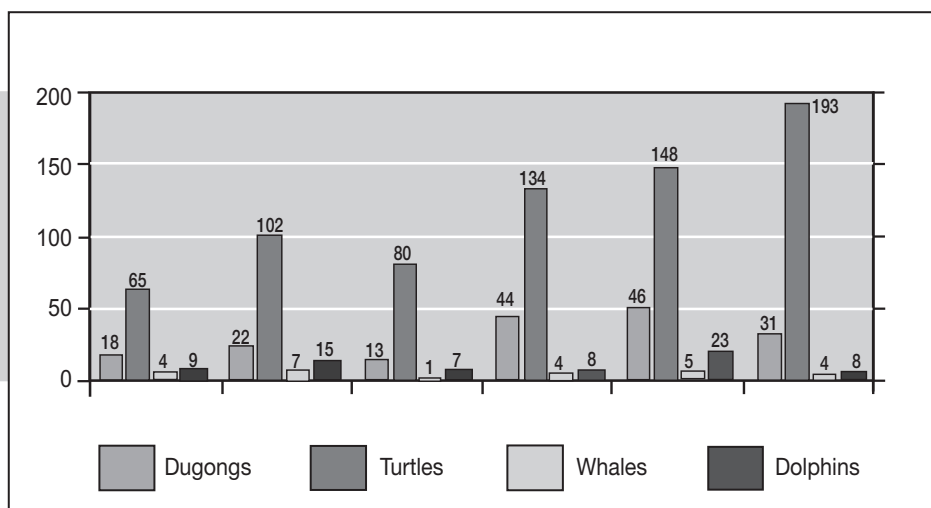
#### *Marine animal stranding responses*

As endorsed by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council, high priority continues to be given to responding to dugong carcass and live-stranding incidents. The following graph [Figure 19] indicates the number of dugongs, turtles, whales and dolphins that have been recorded in the QPWS StrandNet

database as being reported in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area from 1996 – 2002.

In 2002-03, the GBRMPA, the EPA and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries jointly:

- Maintained an effective internal [government, staff] and external [public] email reporting network for strandings and carcasses;
- Developed and managed a contract using CRC Reef funding to conduct a review and refinement study of the marine mammal and turtle stranding program in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area; and
- Promoted public use of the Marine Animal Stranding Hotline [1300 360 898] which provides much of the information for the strandings carcass analysis.



**Figure 19: Strandings of dugongs, turtles, whales and dolphins in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.** Source: GBRMPA, QPWS.

#### *Other species and general conservation issues*

The Species Conservation Unit continues to provide comment on species conservation issues including:

- With the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit giving priority to the development and implementation of an approach to manage the traditional hunting of green turtles and dugongs in the Great Barrier Reef in collaboration with Aboriginal and Islander Traditional Owner groups ;
- Provided advice and comment on a wide range of research and development proposals, as well as projects and permit applications.

Examples include national marine species protection proposals and activities referred by Department of Environment and Heritage under the EPBC Act [See Appendix 7] and the development of national whale recovery plans;

- Continued close liaison with other government agencies regarding management actions including surveillance and enforcement, public awareness, bird conservation issues, carcass and live stranding procedures and the Queensland Shark Control Program; and
- Updated the publication *'Fauna & Flora of the GBRWHA and the basis for the Species Conservation program'*.
- Delivered presentations on marine species conservation issues, wetlands, turtle conservation, and whale watching to LMAC meetings, industry groups, international conferences, and tertiary students;
- Provided media releases and interviews on various conservation topics including dugongs, the Marine Animal Hotline, turtles and whales.

#### *Increasing the protection of biodiversity through the Representative Areas Program*

The Representative Areas Program [RAP] is probably the most comprehensive planning initiative ever undertaken by the GBRMPA and involves staff from across all sections of the agency.

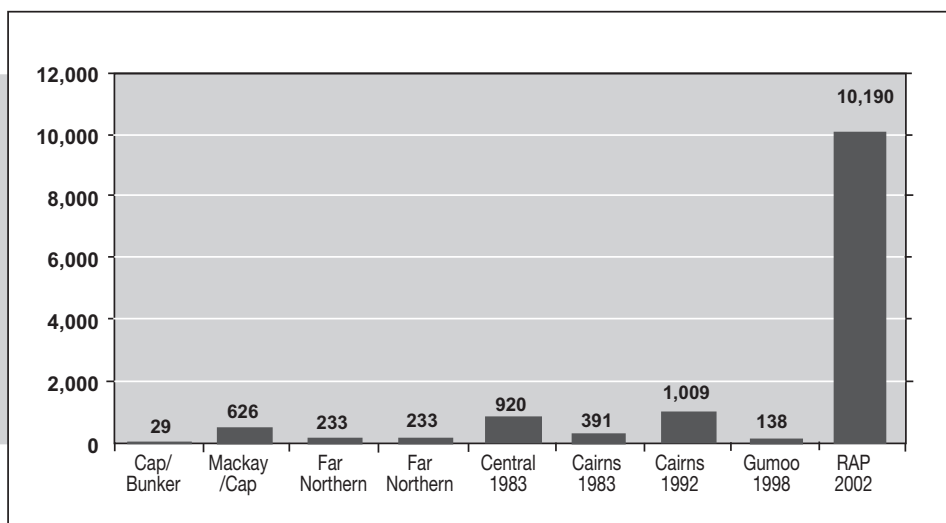
The RAP aims to protect representative examples of each of the broad habitat types and hence to improve the protection of biodiversity in the GBRMP. This will bring great benefits to the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem as a whole. By ensuring the future of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, the GBRMPA seeks to maintain lifestyles, ensure economic prosperity and continue to allow equitable access to examples of all the natural resources of the Marine Park for all users in the future.

Several external independent steering committees have been established to oversee, guide and constructively critique the RAP, including a Scientific Steering Committee and a Social, Economic and Cultural Steering Committee. These committees developed expertise-based operational principles, specific to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, that now guide the RAP, including recommendations on the minimum levels of protection required to ensure the future of the Great Barrier Reef.

The first formal Community Participation phase of RAP was conducted 7 May - August 2002, and was designed to gain information to help prepare a Draft Zoning Plan. A range of material was made available to the public, including the operational principles. An enormous effort was made to inform the public, including:

- Over 1,500 Community Service Announcements on television;
- Over 200 meetings involving over 5,000 people face-to-face, including Community Information Program visits to 22 regional centres;
- Over 100 newspaper articles;
- About 70 newspaper advertisements at the beginning and end of the phase;
- Over 60 radio and 10 TV spots;
- 38,000 hits on the RAP area on the website and over 4,000 calls to our freecall number; *and*
- 33,000 submissions brochures distributed.

As a result of this level of public engagement, 10,190 submissions were received, 5,646 from coastal Queensland communities, 92 from overseas and the rest from other parts of Australia. The high number of submissions compared with previous Community Participation activities shows a high level of successful communication [Figure 20].



**Figure 20: Overview of submissions received for GBRMP Zoning.** Source: GBRMPA. Please note: The RAP 2002 figure represents only the first phase of community participation - the other planning programs show the total number of submissions received during both phases of community participation.

#### Key outputs in 2002-03 included:

- Analysis of all 10,190 submissions from the first community participation phase;



- Identification of candidate area networks that met the biophysical operational principles including a minimum of 20% protection per bioregion and consideration of such aspects as special/unique sites, advice on dugong habitat, etc;
- Refinement of candidate area networks considering data such as fisheries information and submissions;
- A resource inventory for 28 new coastal areas;
- Revision of zone provisions to provide a consistent GBR-wide approach;  
*and*
- Public release of the Draft Zoning Plan.

The Draft Zoning Plan was developed using the submissions and a range of other information sources and effectively implemented the principles. The Draft Zoning Plan incorporated social, economic, cultural and management feasibility principles to maximise complementarity of people's uses and values with the proposed zoning.

The Draft Zoning Plan was released for public comment on 2 June 2003 and mailed to all who provided input during the first formal Community Participation phase, all key groups and organisations and any others who expressed an interest in being involved.

A range of materials was developed to communicate the Draft Zoning Plan to users and all information on the rezoning was available on the GBRMPA website and provided on CD.

As at 30 June 2003, some 160 meetings had occurred in more than 40 regional locations as part of the second formal Community Participation phase. *[See also Output 1.6 - Information for Park Management and Output 1.7 – Communication and Information]*. For more information about the Representative Areas Program visit the GBRMPA website <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au>

### **Related links**

- The Representative Areas Program [RAP] – reviewing the zoning of the entire GBR  
<[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/conservation/rep\\_areas/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/conservation/rep_areas/index.html)>
- Copies of each of the RAP Update Brochures  
<[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/conservation/rep\\_areas/updates.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/conservation/rep_areas/updates.html)>
- The Representative Areas website and the Draft Zoning Plan  
<<http://www.reefed.edu.au/rap/>>

## Cultural heritage

The GBRMPA is required, by its own regulations, to have regard to protecting the cultural and heritage values of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples when assessing permit applications.

Priority was given to awareness-raising campaigns for threatened species in Indigenous communities adjacent to the Marine Park during 2002-03. Because of the significance of dugong and turtle to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, conservation programs continue to take account of cultural sensitivities.

## World Heritage

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area [GBRWhA] is 348,000 km<sup>2</sup> [an area bigger than Victoria and Tasmania combined]. It extends from mean low water mark on the mainland coast to the outer [seaward] boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park beyond the edge of the continental shelf and is one of the largest World Heritage and marine protected areas in the world.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park comprises 99.25 per cent of the GBRWhA with the recent addition of a number of coastal areas. Maintenance of the world heritage values and attributes is a major responsibility of the Australian Government and is an important consideration in the GBRMPA's decision-making and management practices.

Activities maintaining World Heritage values during 2002-03 included:

- The first Periodic Report for the Asia-Pacific Region, including the GBRWhA, was completed and approved by the World Heritage Committee in June 2003;
- Revision of a brochure summarising activities protecting the GBRWhA; *and*
- Presentation on monitoring and reporting in World Heritage Areas made to UNESCO World Heritage workshop in Italy, November 2002 [*Refer to Appendix 6*].

## Related links

- Brochure summarizing the range of activities protecting the GBRWhA <[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/brochures/protecting\\_biodiversity/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/brochures/protecting_biodiversity/index.html)>
- GBRWhA Periodic Report [and December 2002 update for the GBRWhA 'Framework for Management' Report] as provided to the World Heritage Committee <[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/conservation/reporting.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/conservation/reporting.html)>

- Great Barrier Reef World Heritage values  
<<http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/awh/worldheritage/sites/gbr/gbr.html>>

## Output 1.2 Water Quality and Coastal Development

The risk of degradation to the Great Barrier Reef through water pollution, impacts of coastal development and land use must be minimised. The Authority is working with other Commonwealth departments, Queensland and local governments on management arrangements to reduce sediment, nutrient and other land-based runoff that impacts on the health of adjacent marine areas in accordance with the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Action Plan. Long-term monitoring programs are being conducted to determine the state of water quality throughout the reef and assess threats from pollution. The Authority is working with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on improving oil spill contingency planning and response, navigational aids and ship reporting systems.

### OUTPUT GROUP 1.2 - WATER QUALITY AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.2.1	Minimal degradation of the Great Barrier Reef from water pollution and coastal development	Quality	Sound scientific methods used to manage impacts of pollutants and develop management standards.	Achieved
			Quality technical input into environmental assessment and cooperative arrangements in the management of water quality and coastal development.	Achieved
		Quantity	Implementation of the Water Quality Action Plan, Great Barrier Reef [GBR] shipping review recommendations and regulations protecting the GBR from aquaculture wastes.	Achieved
			Improved system for protection of the GBR from shipping impacts. New regulations for ship based sewage.	Achieved
		Price	\$1.584m	

### Performance analysis

The key output for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority concerning water quality and coastal development is the recognition by the Prime Minister and the Premier of Queensland of the threat of declining water quality to the

Reef, which resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2002. The major product from the MOU is the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, which is focused on actions to address declining water quality entering the Reef. The GBRMPA worked extensively with other Commonwealth and Queensland agencies, local governments industry groups and the broader community to produce the draft Plan. Whilst progress on the implementation of the Plan will be reported annually to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council, further reports will be provided to the Prime Minister and the Queensland Premier in July 2005 and 2010 on progress and the need for stronger action if necessary.

The GBRMPA has responsibility for monitoring in the reef system to determine: the change in pollution loads entering the Reef at the river mouth; trends in changes in water quality in the Reef and changes in the health of the inshore reef communities. Queensland state agencies have taken responsibility for addressing the deficiencies in water quality monitoring in the catchments.

The GBRMPA has also worked with Commonwealth and Queensland agencies and the aquaculture industry to streamline the assessment and approval process for land based aquaculture in the GBR Catchment. This has been achieved through accreditation of Queensland law under the Great Barrier Reef [Aquaculture] Regulations 2000. Accreditation was made possible by negotiations with Queensland to upgrade legislative, administrative and compliance processes to ensure high level protection for the Reef. A position statement has also been developed for aquaculture development in the Reef waters.

Public consultation on sewage effluent discharge to the Reef has been undertaken to develop a flexible regulative process that ensures protection of the Reef.

Advice was provided on 138 coastal developments and local government planning schemes to Queensland and Commonwealth agencies.

## Output 1.3 Fisheries

Ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area will be achieved in collaboration with Queensland management agencies. The GBRMPA is working to improve current fisheries management arrangements by seeking the adoption of a whole-of-ecosystem approach to address the sustainability of target species, non-target species and the ecosystems on which they depend.

### OUTPUT GROUP 1.3 - FISHERIES

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.3.1	Ecologically sustainable fisheries that do not compromise the value of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area	Quality	Management arrangements for fisheries in the GBR and World Heritage Area which are based on the best available scientific information, and which ensure sustainability of fisheries resources and the ecosystem on which they depend and whose performance can be audited.	In progress
		Quantity	GBRMPA auditing performance of trawl fishery;	Achieved
			Reviewing management of by-catch species and effectiveness of by-catch reduction devices [BRDs] and turtle excluder devices [TEDs] in trawl nets.	In Progress
			Working with fisheries managers and stakeholders to develop a management plan for coral reef finfish fishery; to improve management arrangements for crab, coral, tropical rock lobster, Spanish mackerel and net fisheries [particularly small mackerels, shark], and reduce threat of nets to dugong.	Achieved
		Price	\$1.056m	

### Performance analysis

The GBRMPA has worked as a key stakeholder in the development of enhanced fisheries management arrangements under the Queensland Fisheries Act. Where necessary, the GBRMPA has raised concerns with the Queensland Fisheries Service and provided advice on preferred fisheries management solutions. The GBRMPA conducts and commissions studies and research projects to support this process. Recognising input from other stakeholders, the consultative process has seen a wide range of fisheries management initiatives introduced during 2002-03. Those with direct benefit to ensuring that fishing in the Marine Park is ecologically sustainable include:

- Improved regulation of turtle excluder devices in trawl nets, new closures and width restrictions on nets in selected areas of the trawl fishery;
- A four-month seasonal spawning closure for tropical rock lobster fishery;

- Introduction of measures to reduce fishing mortality of sharks, including restrictions on shark finning;
- A commercial catch quota for spotted mackerel and a ban on the use of nets to take this species;
- Improved management arrangements to protect aquarium fish stocks;
- More conservative size limits for spotted mackerel, snapper, pearl perch and flathead;
- Reduced bag limits on spotted mackerel, snapper, pearl perch, flathead, teraglin, sea cucumbers, crayfish, tropical rock lobster, beachworms and bloodworms;
- Reduced total allowable catch for the spanner crab fishery; *and*
- Introduction of compulsory satellite vessel monitoring systems to the sea cucumber and trochus fishing boats.

Significant advances have been made in the development of new management arrangements for other fisheries including coral reef fish, Spanish mackerel, inshore fisheries, crab and coral. Final management plans and regulations are expected to be introduced in 2003-04.

The GBRMPA completed an audit of the trawl fishery that provided 40 recommendations to the Queensland Fisheries Service [See feature box below].

The GBRMPA's capability to detect, prosecute and deter illegal fishing in the Marine Park has been enhanced further.

Potential impacts on fishers and fisheries have been considered carefully in the development of draft plans for new marine protected areas and zoning of the Marine Park [See Output 1.1] This process included extensive consultations with commercial, recreational and charter fishers, the Queensland Fisheries Service and fisheries scientists.

#### **Related links:**

- GBRMPA fisheries:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/fisheries/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/fisheries/index.html)
- State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area report 1998  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/fisheries\\_frame.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/fisheries_frame.html)

## Audit Report on the Management of the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery as it operates in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

An audit of the management of the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery [ECTF] in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was undertaken at the request of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council. The report examines how well the fishery has achieved the objectives of the revised Trawl Management Plan, which was introduced in December 2000.

The responsibilities and obligations of the GBRMPA under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 provided the foundation for the audit. The assessment also took account of the Commonwealth Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries.

The audit has been prepared in the interest of progressing the ecological sustainability of the trawl fishery, thereby achieving the stated objectives of fishers, fishery managers and the GBRMPA. It recognises the significant improvements in the management of the trawl fishery since the introduction of the revised Management Plan. The report contains 40 recommendations, which contribute in a positive and constructive way to the process of continuous improvement in the management of the ECTF.

The main findings of the audit are as follows:

There has been a significant reduction of fishing effort and the introduction of effort units has [at least nominally] capped fishing effort in the fishery. However, there is concern that the effort reductions achieved under the plan can be undermined through efficiency increases by the trawl fleet [Referred to as 'effort creep']. Current provisions in the Management Plan for reducing effective fishing effort are likely to be only partially successful.

- Additional closures in areas where trawling had not occurred previously were introduced under the revised Management Plan, but fishing activity in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is nearing the effort cap set under the Trawl Plan.
- Monitoring and research efforts have been focussed primarily on key target species and need to be extended to by-product and bycatch species. Many of the key target species are regarded as 'fully exploited'. Improvements in the gathering of data and stock assessment processes would provide greater confidence that stocks are not being over-fished. As required under the precautionary principle, uncertainties should also be factored into the assessment process.
- Research has demonstrated that bottom trawling can have a major impact on seabed biodiversity. The impact of the fishery on bycatch species and the wider ecosystem should be more closely monitored. Environmental impacts of trawl gear need to be mitigated through appropriate management

measures. The tightening of the legal requirement for trawlers to carry prescribed turtle excluder devices is welcomed, but a similar revision to the specifications for bycatch reduction devices is needed.

- Current performance measures in the Management Plan, which alert managers to overfishing and major environmental impacts of the fishery, are unlikely to achieve their purpose. Management intervention [in response to a review event being triggered] is likely to be delayed. A review of performance indicators and review events for the fishery is strongly supported.
- The implementation of a satellite-based vessel monitoring system has enabled closer monitoring of the fleet's activity. This has major compliance benefits and may assist with stock assessment of the fishery in the longer term.

The report entitled '*Audit of the Management of the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*' is a public document and can be found on the GBRMPA website:

[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/fisheries/commercial/rawl\\_fish\\_report.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/fisheries/commercial/rawl_fish_report.html)

## Output 1.4 Tourism and Recreation

Tourism and recreation are by far the major uses of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [the Marine Park]. Data compiled from the GBRMPA Environmental Management Charge database shows that commercial tourism accounted for over 1.8 million visitor days to the Marine Park during 2002 [not including passengers in transit].

The Productivity Commission in its February 2003 report on the Great Barrier Reef estimated the economic worth of tourism in the Great Barrier Reef catchment and lagoon to be \$4.3 billion, of which the GBRMPA estimates that approximately \$1.4 billion is directly attributable to the marine tourism industry.

Recreational use is less accurately quantified, but has been estimated at about 2 million visitor days each year. The major recreational activity is fishing, with an estimated economic worth of approximately \$240 million.

### Performance analysis

The key output for the GBRMPA concerning tourism and recreation is that there is sustainable growth of tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park.



## OUTPUT 1.4 TOURISM AND RECREATION

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.4.1	Sustainable growth of tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park	Quality	Comprehensive reef-wide policies on key issues. Planning and regulatory systems that provide transparency and certainty.	Achieved
			Effective communication with key stakeholders. Improved understanding of tourism and recreation users and patterns of use.	Achieved
			Cooperative management for sustainable tourism and recreation use opportunities in the Marine Park.	Achieved
		Quantity	Policies on allocation, latency & tenure to improve tourism and recreation use management.	Achieved
			Contributions to zoning, management and site plans.	Achieved
			Regular communication with tourism industry representatives.	Achieved
			Co-operative development of improved approach to tourism and recreation management.	Achieved
			Information and training available to industry and other stakeholders.	Achieved
		Price	\$1.214m	

The GBRMPA has facilitated sustainable growth in tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park through:

- Designation of eleven new cruise ship anchorages at nine locations in the far north of the Marine Park;
- Designation of a new cruise ship anchorage in the Whitsundays area, adjacent to Hamilton Island;
- Installation of a further 62 public moorings at high-use sites in the Marine Park [30 off-shore Cairns, 5 off-shore Townsville and 27 around the Whitsundays];
- Allocation of nine swimming with dwarf minke whale permits for use in the Cairns area;
- Rationalisation of permit conditions for private moorings installed in the Marine Park;
- Provision of government funding for a crown-of-thorns starfish [COTS] control program at high-value tourism sites on the Great Barrier Reef;

- Consultation with the tourism industry and recreational users on various management initiatives, including the Representative Areas Program, the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*, and the *Hinchinbrook Plan of Management*;
- Improved industry understanding of opportunities and responsibilities through quarterly newsletters, updates to the GBRMPA website and the *Tourism Operator's Handbook for the Great Barrier Reef* and facilitation of the Tourism Staff Certificate Course.

The GBRMPA has also been working in partnership with the tourism industry, particularly the peak body the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators [AMPTO], to address the key outstanding issues in managing tourism permissions [especially allocation, latency and tenure]. A draft of the policy was released for broad stakeholder consultation in March 2003. The purpose of the policy when it comes into effect, is to manage tourism permissions to operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in an equitable, efficient and commercially realistic manner, consistent with maintenance of World Heritage values and principles of ecologically sustainable development.

The GBRMPA has also emphasised the importance of fostering best practice tourism in the Marine Park and is seeking to recognise and reward high-standard operators through external certification schemes. The core areas where operators can make a significant contribution to Marine Park management are 'protection', 'presentation' and 'partnerships'.

## Output 1.5 Park Management

By agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and Queensland marine parks and island national parks within the Great Barrier Reef Region is undertaken through collaborative agency arrangements. This represents a significant investment by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments in excess of \$10 million.

### Day-to-Day Management Program

The Day-to-Day Management [DDM] Program is funded jointly by the State of Queensland and the Commonwealth through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The Program is also supplemented by funding and in-kind contributions from a variety of sources. Beneficial outcomes are achieved by the Program through the blending of activities provided through the supplementary funding opportunities. For example, participation in the water quality monitoring project which provides valuable resource data that can be used for the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

## OUTPUT 1.5.1 FIELD MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE PARK

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.1	Field management of the Marine Park	Quality	Targeted and strategic enforcement with infringements dealt with promptly.	Achieved
			Impact of visitors on reefs and resources kept within sustainable limits.	In progress
			Visitor and management facilities installed and maintained to a high standard.	Achieved
		Quantity	Regular patrols of high use areas and targeted enforcement of trawl, line fishing and dugong protection area controls.	Achieved
			Public relations contact with users in major activity areas.	Achieved
		Price	\$9.772m [i.e. \$28 per square kilometre of Marine Park]	

In reporting on the implementation of the DDM Annual Business Plan, it is acknowledged that the outcomes could often not be achieved without the supplementary funding provided through:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority contribution towards the operation of the DDM Coordination Unit;
- Recreation Area Management Board funding for Green Island;
- State Capital Works funding; *and*
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service [QPWS] funding for a range of island and wildlife management projects.

In addition to the supplementary funding of DDM activities, the GBRMPA and QPWS provide additional resources that support the DDM Program. These include, but are not limited to, managing permit assessments, plans of management, and zoning issues. Both agencies also provide management and operational systems that support the delivery of DDM activities.

In kind contributions from a range of agencies also provide very significant contributions to DDM. Key agencies include:

- Coastwatch;
- Customs;
- Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Australian Federal Police [AFP];
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority [AMSA];

- Queensland Department of Primary Industries;
- Queensland Police Service [QPS]; *and*
- Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol [QBFP].

### Performance analysis

Enforcement of the legislative provisions protecting the GBRMP, are the Day-to-day Management Program's highest priorities. In delivering the compliance program, the protection of the integrity of the GBRMP is addressed by:

- maximising voluntary compliance [by encouraging and educating park user groups], *and*
- providing an effective deterrent capability [detection, prosecution and administrative sanctions] working to priorities of:
  - Line and trawl fisheries,
  - Dugong protection,
  - Far Northern zoning plan, *and*
  - Emerging compliance issues to prevent serious environmental harm.

Key actions taken to address the strategic objectives included:

- Access to the Queensland Fisheries Service Vessel Monitoring System [VMS], enabling the 'on-line real-time' positional monitoring of fisheries such as trawl and *bêche-de-mer*. Such data enables the more effective and efficient targeting of patrol assets.
- Development of a risk based annual tasking plan for Coastwatch. This plan describes in detail the compliance priorities, justifications and treatments, which enables Coastwatch to maximise the effectiveness of its strategic and tactical aerial surveillance program.
- Establishment of an operational agreement with the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol [QBFP] for the enhanced surveillance and enforcement of the GBRMP.
- Development of a software program which reforms the Coastwatch post flight reports into a graphical display.
- Centralisation of compliance information through the introduction of a compliance information management system [software program].
- Continuation of compliance training to ensure that all Inspectors meet the Commonwealth Public Service Performance 99 Fraud Competency Standards.
- Contracting of services for the development of Compliance Management and Investigation Procedures, including the development of a complexity priority model, for the prioritisation of investigations.

- Review and update of the GBRMP Compliance Planning Information package for 2003-04. The package consists of risk assessment charts, forecasted risk analysis, risk treatments, classification of impacts, profiles of activities and is accompanied by wall charts for user friendly strategic planning. This package is sent to all enforcement agencies and provides them with the information they need, when planning their annual strategic and tactical surveillance programs.
- Development of an Infringement Notice System for offences against the

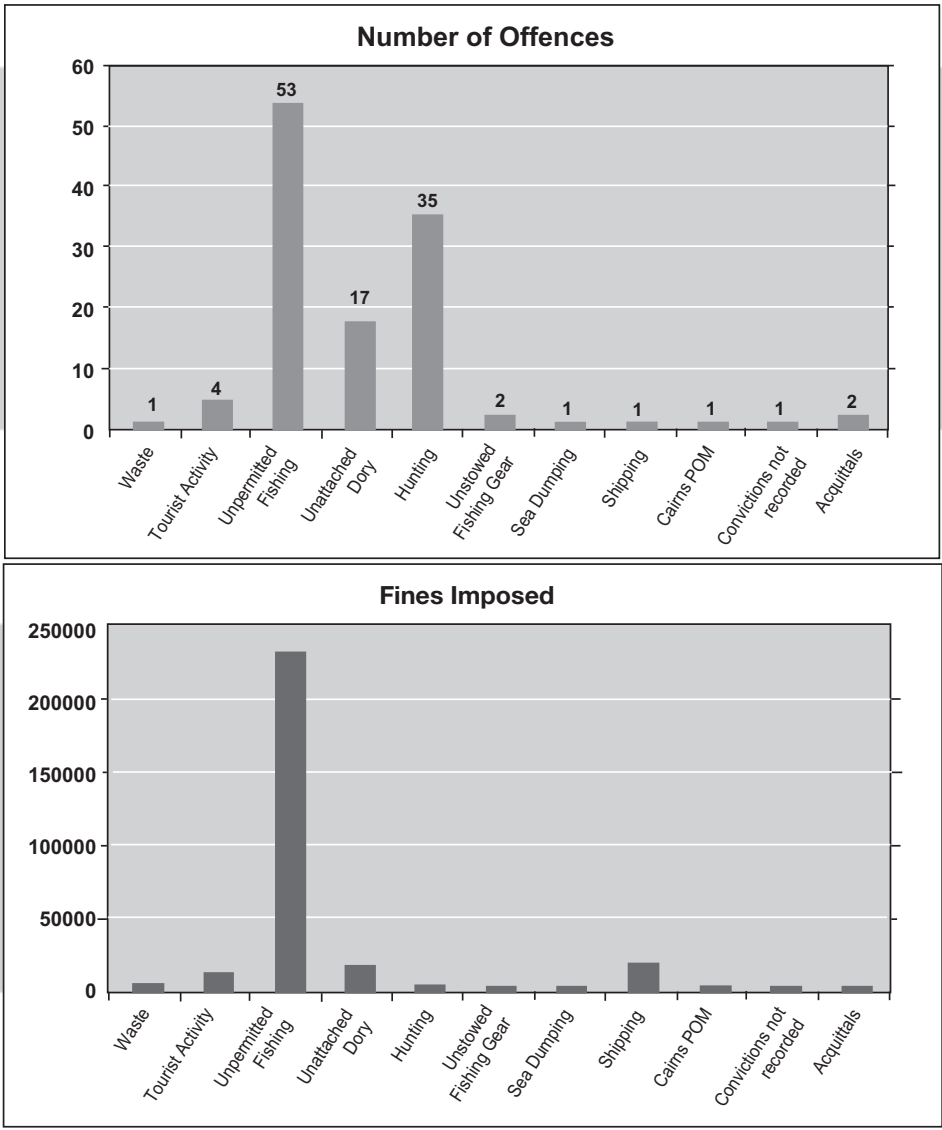


Figure 21: Offences prosecuted and fines imposed in 2002-03. Source: DDM

GBRMP Regulations due to be implemented in 2003-04. This system will provide a timely and measured response to those strict liability offences, for which a predetermined penalty is deemed to be appropriate. It will allow officers to be more efficient, reduce time lost associated with court prosecution and significantly reduce the inconvenience to the public.

- Hosting of a three-day interagency compliance workshop, titled *'Towards an integrated approach to compliance management in the Great Barrier Reef'*. The objective of the workshop was to deliver a structure that will enhance the whole of government approach to addressing maritime non-compliance in the region.

In addressing the strategic compliance priorities, of the 298 offences detected, the number of commercial line fishing detections has risen from the previous year by 31, to a total of 90. This increase is indicative of the focus of the program and of the enhanced interagency coordination initiatives and dissemination of compliance planning information. Of particular note are the results of Coastwatch, who detected approximately 50% of these fishery offences.

As a result of the compliance program, 118 offences were decided in the courts, resulting in fines amounting to \$279,090.

Of the 298 incidents reported for the period, 375 offences were generated.

Adjourned for mention	9
Administrative action	6
Advisory letter	71
Convicted	34
Hearing	5
Information	3
Insufficient evidence	48
No conviction	1
No evidence/offence/investigation	28
Referred to another agency	6
State infringement notice	1
Summoned	8
Unable to locate offender	11
Under investigation	142
Verbal caution	2

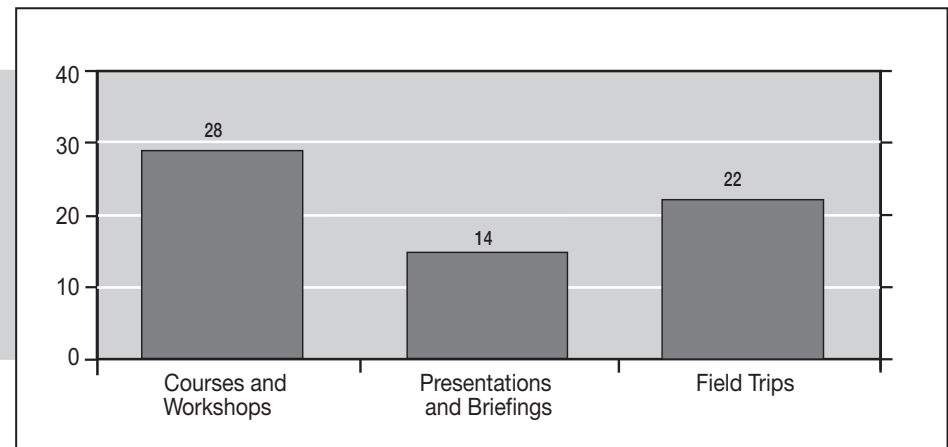
**Table 4: Summary of actions taken in response to alleged offences. Source: DDM**

**Traditional Hunting Framework**

Officers of the DDM Program have been involved in the development of the Traditional Hunting Framework in the Cairns/Cape York region. Indications are that there is a general appreciation for the Framework initiative and of agencies wishing to assist Traditional Owners in their management of sea country hunting and conservation of turtles and dugong.

**Training**

The Day-to-day Management training program was successfully implemented with approximately 300 participants taking part in 64 training courses, workshops, presentations, briefings and field trips. Training courses for Program staff were convened throughout the Great Barrier Reef Region and targeted Program priorities with emphasis on compliance legislation and intelligence and incident response management.



**Figure 22: DDM Training activities in 2002-03. Source: DDM.**

*Cross agency training*

Cross-agency participation in training events resulted in the achievement of successful collaboration between agencies to accomplish positive environmental outcomes by the dissemination of information throughout the Program and to all interested parties.

Some of the participating agencies included:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Coastwatch
- Australian Customs

- Australian Federal Police
- Department of Environment and Heritage
- Queensland Police Service
- Queensland Fisheries Service
- Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol
- Australian National Audit Office
- Northern Region Intelligence Unit

A unique opportunity was taken to provide a comprehensive tour and overview of the Program to Vice Admiral Lautenbacher, Administrator of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who visited Australia in November 2002.

### **DDM Review**

An extensive review of the DDM Program was completed in the second half of the 2002-03 year.

The DDM Review has identified enhanced delivery methods for on-ground activities to successfully address the four dominant Program priorities. A Senior Officers Group was established to critically assess the Review recommendations and provide an implementation plan to the Marine Park Authority Board. The Board has endorsed the recommendations and approved the execution of the implementation plan.

It is expected that significant aspects of the recommendations will be implemented immediately. With an anticipated requirement to redesign the annual works program, the reporting arrangements, the format and new service agreements, some aspects will be implemented over the short term.

### **Impact of visitors on reefs and resources kept within sustainable limits**

The Whitsunday region received approximately 600,000 visitors for the year. The Whitsunday District has been piloting a *'Tourism Industry Partnership Program'* with local tourist operators, which is proving to be mutually beneficial with excellent feedback. The Program was formally rolled out in May 2003 to include all permittees.

A number of site planning initiatives were undertaken during the year to provide site-specific management of pressures and conflicting uses.

The continued contribution to Marine Park management by community volunteers remains a valuable and integral part of the DDM Program.

A number of site planning initiatives were undertaken during the year to



provide site specific management of pressures and conflicting uses:

- Bauer Bay/Blue Pearl Bay/Hill Inlet – Fieldwork to rectify aerial photo and collection of contours. Anticipate that the plan for Bauer Bay will be completed by August 2003.
- Bushy Island – Field trip and resource assessment undertaken.
- Keswick Island – Site inspections have been carried out.
- Newry Islands – Marine issues were scoped and identified as part of the National Park planning process.
- Capricorn and Bunker Group – Three site-planning processes were completed and draft plans produced. Aerial photographs of three reefs have been input into GIS and rectified.
- Great Keppel Island – Site plan commenced to address un-permitted moorings at Fisherman's and Putney Beaches.

A key component of the framework for protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is provided for through development of zoning plans. The zoning plans are supported by plans of management that address more detailed management required for high use or sensitive locations, and permits addressing the impacts of individual activities specified in zoning plans.

## OUTPUT 1.5.2 PLANNING AND IMPACT MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE PARK

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.2	Planning and Impact Management of the Marine Park	Quality	All plans effectively maintain or enhance natural and cultural values while providing for wise use.	In progress
			All significant proposals for use of the Marine Park undergo impact assessment.	Achieved
		Quantity	Gumoo Wojobuddee Section Zoning Plan, Hinchinbrook Plan of Management completed, Representative Areas Programme zoning initial public consultation finalised.	Achieved
			All plans effectively maintain or enhance natural and cultural values while providing for wise use.	Achieved
			At least 700 assessments conducted and decisions made.	Achieved
		Price	\$3.751m	

## Performance analysis - Planning

### *Gumoo Woojabuddee Section*

The finalisation of the Zoning Plan for the Gumoo Woodjabuddee Section in December 2002 put in place the system of zones that is required to protect sensitive areas of high conservation and cultural importance and to ensure use of the area, which includes traditional use by the Darumbal people, Defence training activities, tourism, recreation and commercial fishing, takes place in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Zone Type	Area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	% area
General Use	328.7	92.5
Habitat Protection	12.2	3.4
Conservation Park	8.8	2.5
National Park	5.6	1.6
Islands and rocks	0.5	>1.0
Total Section	355.3	100

**Table 5: Zoning in the Gumoo Woojabuddee Section of the GBRMP. Source: GBRMPA.**

### *Hinchinbrook Plan of Management*

The Hinchinbrook Area is world renowned as a place of rugged beauty and inspiration, a place of recreation and relaxation. The area contains a diverse array of habitats, and continues to support healthy populations of vulnerable fauna such as dugong, turtles, dolphins, as well as a host of birds and the occasional migrating whale.

The following vision for the Hinchinbrook area was developed through community consultation:

‘An ecologically sustainably managed region where World Heritage values are protected with large areas of linked natural vegetation, clean rivers and coastal areas supporting biodiversity; a viable tourism industry with an emphasis on eco-tourism; a sustainable fishery; and a strong community in management and development, particularly from Aboriginal people; all contributing with equal importance to social, cultural, ecological and economic security.’

The Hinchinbrook Plan of Management [HPOM], which is in the final stages of approval, introduces a range of management actions necessary to achieve this vision. The plan is one of a nested set of coastal, island and Marine Park plans that have been prepared in a collaborative process between the Australian Government, the Queensland State Government and the community.

Management measures introduced into the GBRMP through this planning exercise include: the identification of vessel transit lanes that will minimise disturbance to dugong; seasonal or other restrictions on vessel and aircraft necessary to protect sensitive bird breeding areas and to maintain appropriate settings for the range of uses of the Planning Area; and measures necessary to ensure that the recreational and tourism potential of the area is achieved in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Between 29 September 2001 to 1 February 2002, 980 people were contacted about the HPOM and approximately 800 information packages were sent out. After the consultation phase had ended 50 submissions were received.

It is anticipated that the HPOM will go to the MPA meeting in August 2003.

### Performance analysis - Environmental Impact Management

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority [the GBRMPA] has continued to focus on environmental policy, a streamlining process and working with permit applicants to ensure ecologically sustainable development in and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef.

The requirement for a permit for some activities in the GBRMP is a significant management tool allowing the GBRMPA to carefully assess and manage the potential impacts of specific activities. During the year approximately 745 permissions were granted, including approximately 30 major projects. The following graph [Figure 23] represents the various types of permission granted. In addition 80 permits were transferred between operators.

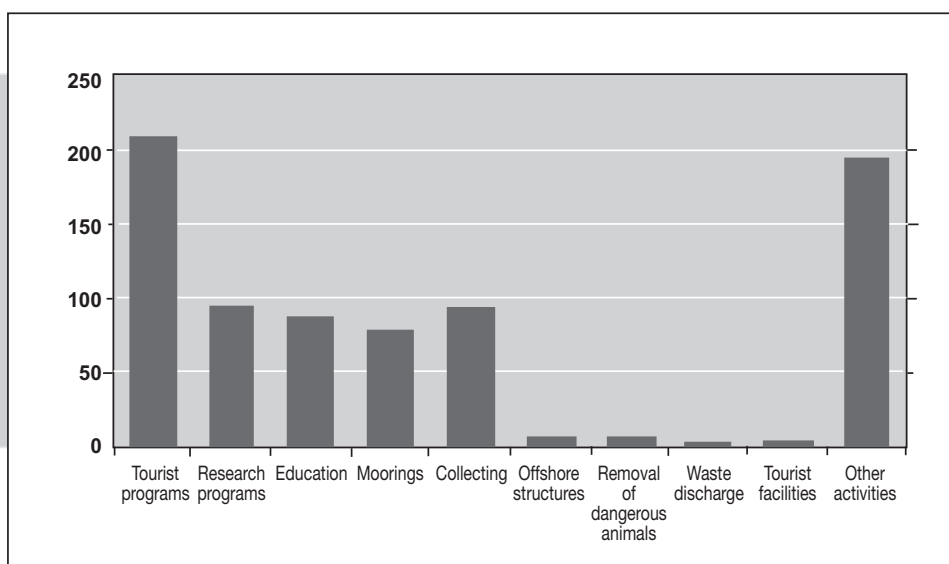
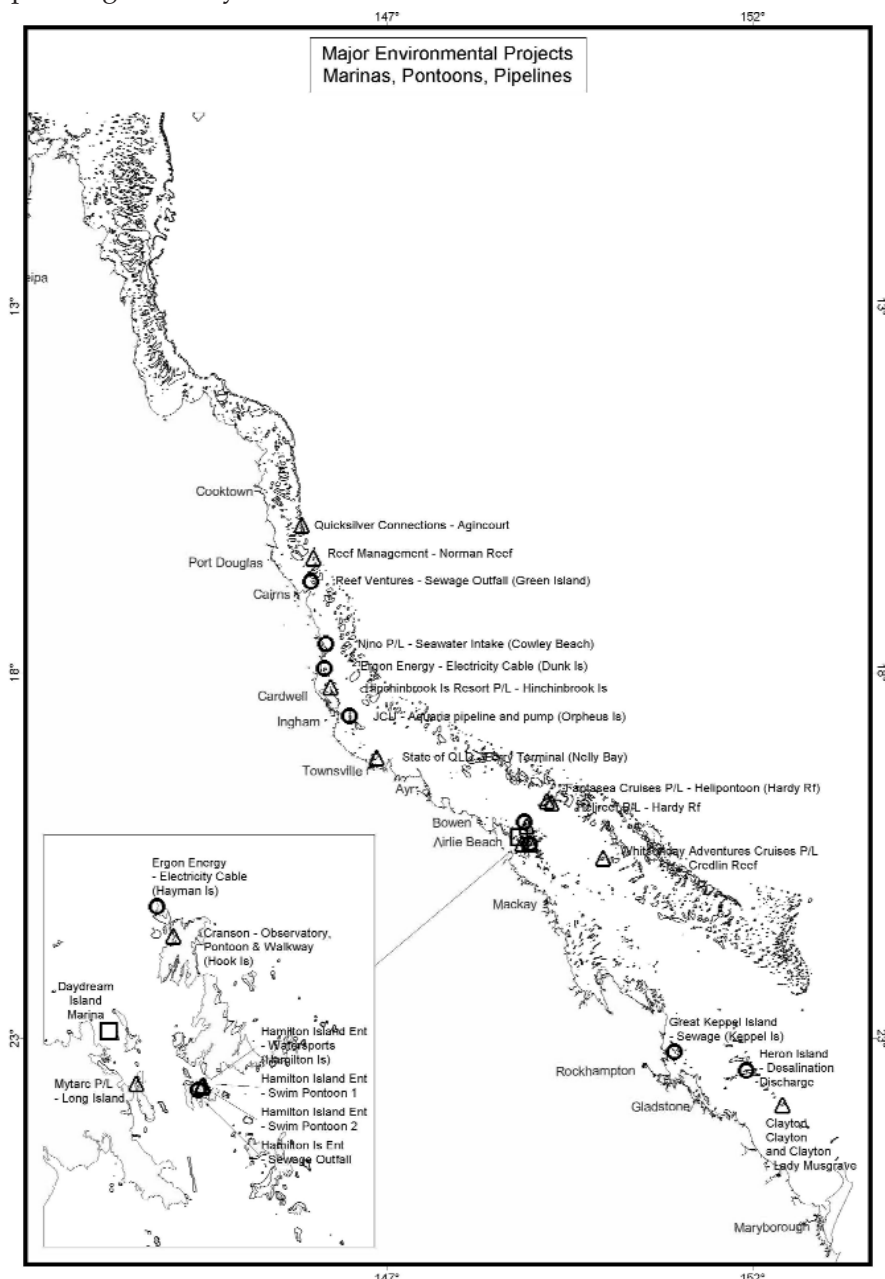


Figure 23: Types of permission granted by the GBRMPA during 2002-03. Source: GBRMPA

A significant achievement during the year was the implementation of the website allowing the public easy access to up to date information on permit application and decision information. The site includes specific details of each permit granted by the GBRMPA.



**Figure 24: Location of some common major project types: marinas, pontoons and pipelines in the GBRMP.** Source: Protected Environment Management System database.

During 2002-03 the GBRMPA considered over 30 major development applications. The variety of types and locations of a subset of these major projects is illustrated in Figure 24. Considerable resources were focussed on the Nelly Bay Boat Harbour development at Magnetic Island, Townsville where the GBRMPA worked with the Department of State Development to ensure a world's best practise process with site supervision and adaptive management and monitoring. An Environmental Impact Statement was prepared for a major development at Dent Island in the Whitsunday's. A Public Environment Report was prepared for a large pontoon offshore from Cairns. Project managers were involved in management of the clean up of a ship grounding at Piper Reef in the Far Northern Section of the GBRMP.

### Highlights of 2002-03

- Environmental impact assessment undertaken of all relevant proposals for use or entry of the GBRMP.
- Approximately 700 assessments undertaken, including 30 major projects.
- Public access to permit information via the Internet developed and implemented.

### OUTPUT 1.5.3 LIAISON WITH INDIGENOUS GROUPS

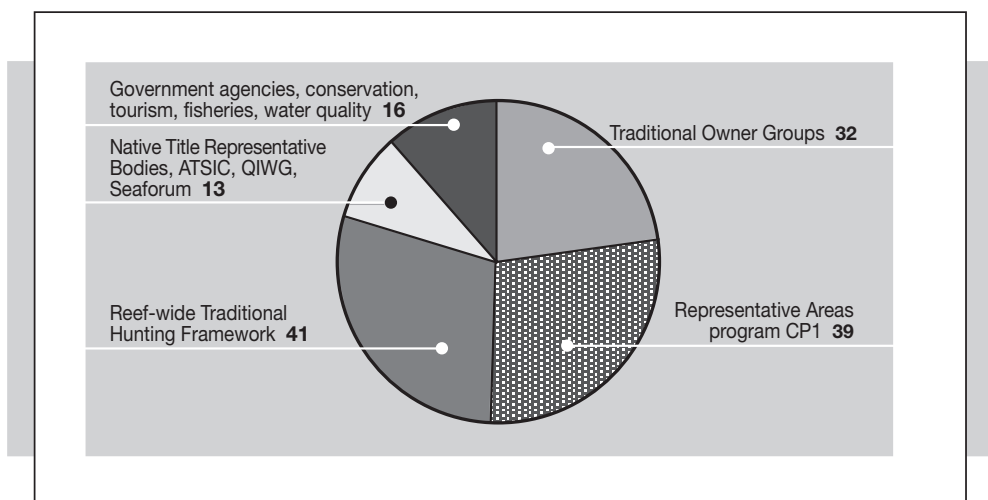
	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.3	Liaison with Indigenous groups and community involvement in management	Quality	Effective participation by Indigenous people and the broader community in the development of key policies and management strategies.	In progress
		Quantity	Ten Local Marine Advisory Committees and a general Consultative Committee maintained.	Achieved
		Price	\$0.883m	
Total Price for Output 1.5			\$14.406m	

### Performance analysis - Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit

#### *Liaison with Indigenous Groups*

The 2002-03 year resulted in major progress in areas of Indigenous community appreciation and involvement in the Representative Areas and Threatened Species Management Programs. A concerted effort was also applied towards relationship building with Indigenous groups and other management agencies,

which encouraged the development of new management strategies for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The following table details the number of Indigenous Policy Liaison Unit meetings conducted with all client groups.



**Figure 25: IPLU meetings and workshops in 2002-03. Source: GBRMPA.**

#### *Representative Areas Program Community Participation Phase 1 [CP 1]*

Key Indigenous outcomes of CP1:

- 39 meetings with Traditional Owner Groups during CP1.
- 19 Indigenous Submissions to CP1.
- Extended RAP Education program to Indigenous communities through 18 regional workshop meetings held after CP1 delivered in conjunction with Reef-wide Traditional Hunting Framework implementation.
- Greater reef wide Indigenous community understanding and appreciation of reef bioregions and overall objectives of the Representative Areas Program.
- Provide an ideal opportunity to help address Indigenous issues on a reef-wide scale through new zoning provisions, regulations, traditional use policies and future Indigenous programs.

#### *Reef-wide Traditional Hunting Framework Development*

The Reef-wide Traditional Hunting Management Framework is a program involving the GBRMPA, the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency and Indigenous Representative Bodies and, most importantly, Traditional Owner groups. The development of the Framework is critical to addressing

requirements to achieve sustainable traditional hunting in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Support towards the concept of entering into formal agreements for the cooperative management of traditional marine resources			Workshops /Meetings
Reef-wide Traditional Owner Groups	Yes 90%	Undecided 10%	18
Reef-wide Native Title Representative Bodies,	Yes 60%	Undecided 40%	13
GBRMPA Conservation, Tourism and Fisheries Reef Advisory Committees	Yes		5
Environmental Protection Agency Executive & Policy Co-ordination	Yes		5
Total			41

**Table 6: Support for the concept of entering into formal agreements for the cooperative management of traditional marine resources.** Source: GBRMPA.

The work conducted throughout 2002-03 resulted in the GBRMPA cooperatively developing a credible information base for the Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreement [TUMRA] regulation proposal that was announced as part of the second RAP Community Information Phase conducted between June 2 and August 4 2003.

#### *Indigenous Education Products 2002-03*

As part of the annual program, the GBRMPA educational products were distributed and used widely in order to increase the level of awareness of Indigenous sea country issues, Representative Areas Program and Threatened Species Management. Below is a list of the GBRMPA Indigenous Education Products produced 2002-03.

- Sea Country Newsletter Edition Number 9 & 10;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and the Great Barrier Reef Region - Fact sheet;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Service Structure for Land and Sea Management in Queensland;
- Traditional Hunting Management - Working Together on Sea Country Issues;
- Draft GBRMPA Guide to Implementing Projects with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Groups;
- The GBRMPA Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's

Involvement in the Representative Areas Program Community Information Phase 1 & 2;

- Indigenous Use of Marine Resources in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Draft concept plan for Sea Country website and Reef HQ display;
- *Reef Watch* newspaper articles;
- Townsville 4KG and TTT Indigenous Issues – Radio stories; and
- Reef-Ed SOSE modules.

#### *Key Project consultations with Indigenous Communities*

The Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit [IPLU] assisted the GBRMPA staff and external clients to implement major projects with Indigenous communities.

Below is a list of the key projects:

- GBR Water Quality Protection Plan consultation with Traditional Owner Groups, Native Title Representative Bodies and Indigenous Corporations;
- Far Northern Section Cruise Ship Anchorages and Code of Conduct consultation with Cape York Peninsula Traditional Owner Groups, Cape York Land Council and Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation;
- Doric Chariot grounding Emergency Response Plan consultation with traditional owner groups, Lockhart River Aboriginal Community and Cape York Land Council;
- Sunlover Cruises Moore Reef Proposed Replacement Pontoon consultation with Gungandji Traditional Owner group and North Queensland Land Council; *and*
- Giringun Saltwater Unit Co-management Proposal, the GBRMPA Board and Executive presentation.

## Output 1.6 Information for Park Management

The Authority's policies and decisions are based on the best available scientific and technical information. The Authority is a major partner in the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

### **Performance analysis**

In 2002-03, the *Science Technology and Information Group* continued to co-ordinate the delivery of information needs throughout the GBRMPA. In doing this, the Group has responsibility for knowledge management. 2002-03 was the first year in which GBRMPA began to explicitly address this issue. A broad-based *Knowledge Management Working Group* was formed to act as a forum for discussion and to improve the knowledge management culture and systems



## OUTPUT GROUP 1.6: INFORMATION FOR PARK MANAGEMENT

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.6.1	Scientific & technical information available for management	Quality	Scientific and technical information and advice based on competitively selected and externally reviewed scientific research.	Achieved
			Research priorities identified and documented.	Achieved
		Quantity	Co-ordination of CRC Reef Program [including 50 individual research tasks], management of contracted research projects, impact monitoring of major developments, status reporting for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, dissemination of research information [reports, newsletters, internet].	Achieved
		Price	\$4.337m including a \$1.9m contribution to the CRC for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.	

within GBRMPA. The first steps were to document and organise GBRMPA's existing knowledge and information management systems and to identify gaps in the existing information/knowledge resources. The issue of a knowledge sharing culture was highlighted at Senior Management level and now has Executive support. Building on existing services, small individual knowledge management projects are planned for next year, together with a baseline study of GBRMPA's current knowledge culture. It is also hoped that a draft future strategy will be proposed.

In addition to overall responsibility for knowledge management, the *Science, Technology and Information Group* comprises four separate teams each with a distinct service delivery function, each of which contributes information for park management. The four teams are:

- *Research and Monitoring Co-ordination;*
- *Information Technology;*
- *Library and Image Services;* and
- *Spatial Data Centre.*

While recognising that the activities for Research and Monitoring Co-ordination relate directly to Output 1.6 and its associated Key Performance Indicator below, each of the four teams contributes information to the Agency for Park Management. All have therefore been included here as contributors to

the outcome 'Scientific & technical information available for management.'

### **Research and Monitoring Co-ordination**

The Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit continues to ensure that the GBRMPA has the best available scientific information for Marine Park management decisions. The members of the Unit maintain the scientific expertise within the GBRMPA necessary for acquiring, understanding and interpreting this information.

This year the Unit provided advice on a wide variety of scientific issues. Of particular importance was social science support for the Representative Areas Program and continued development of scientific understanding of the implications for Marine Park management of major ecosystem events upon the GBR caused by global warming.

The Unit also finalized the *State of the Great Barrier Reef Report Online* to be launched by the Hon Dr David Kemp, Minister for Environment and Heritage on 4 July 2003. In conjunction with the Environmental Impact Management Unit and the Secretariat, the Unit also provided support for the Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee [JC13], which met three times during 2002-03 in Townsville [See Appendix 2].

#### *Coordinating research*

Most of the GBRMPA's scientific information needs were met through outsourcing. The CRC Reef Research Centre is the primary research provider, and the Unit maintained extensive liaison with the Centre to ensure the research program closely reflects the GBRMPA's research priorities [See the GBRMPA website]. Ongoing close liaison will ensure the continuing value of the CRC Reef Research Centre's tasks to the GBRMPA.

#### *Providing scientific advice on major phenomena and significant events*

Following on from the 2002 coral bleaching events, the Research and Monitoring Coordination Units continues to work collaboratively with the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and the United States Government's National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency [NOAA] to improve scientific understanding of the impact of global climate change upon the Great Barrier Reef's ecosystem. Information about coral bleaching is available on the GBRMPA's website.

#### *Implementing Impact Monitoring Programs*

The major task for the Unit was managing the Impact Monitoring Program [part of the Environmental Impact Management Plan] for the Nelly Bay Harbour development on Magnetic Island. The Impact Monitoring Program played a key

role in minimising the environmental impacts of the development by alerting managers to increasing levels of environmental risk so appropriate management actions could be taken before impacts occurred. The Unit continues to provide substantial scientific support to the GBRMPA EIM Unit for major development assessments.

#### *Disseminating research results*

In 2002-03, the Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit published three research publications [See Appendix 6], and two of the new Reef Research Information Sheets; copies of which are available on the GBRMPA website. Additionally, the GBRMPA hosted 16 seminar presentations, which were attended by about 400 people, as part of the GBRMPA Seminar Series. This series disseminated the latest research information to researchers and managers in the Townsville area.

#### *Supporting training of postgraduate students*

The GBRMPA Science for Management Research Grants encourage student research relevant to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area by providing funding to assist students with their PhD or Masters research. The research must contribute towards addressing the GBRMPA's research priorities and key management issues, and may be physical, biological or social science based. In 2003, the GBRMPA awarded five grants, of \$1000 each. Information about the 2003 Awards are available in the Reef Research Information Sheet No.3 available on the GBRMPA web site.

### **Information Technology**

The Information Technology team continues to design, develop and implement strategies and contingencies to meet the ongoing and changing information system and technology needs of the Authority while maintaining the expected high standard of service and useability. The client survey conducted during the year reinforced this with positive feedback provided on the direction and standard of information technology services within the Authority. Once again there has been a major focus for the Information Technology team on network and information technology security along with the development of the Representative Areas Program database and the submissions web based interface for Phase 2 of the Program. Significant resources were utilised in these areas.

#### *Assessing and prioritising user needs*

There continues to be a very high demand for information technology training because of the number of temporary and contract staff and the continuing growing need for and reliance on technology.

### *Effective user support to improve productivity*

New helpdesk staff have continued to provide a positive face for the Information Technology team to our clients. Improved help desk procedures have been implemented to ensure effective user support. Software and user procedures are being constantly refined to improve responsiveness to support needs.

### *Effective information systems to meet authority needs*

Major database developments included ongoing the design and construction of the Representative Areas Program database that was used to store and analyse the 10,190 submissions arising from the first phase of the Community Information Program. Several web-based and other databases have been developed to support internal administrative functions.

This year has seen the continued development of the public website to reflect the Authority's revised corporate identity and features an improved navigation system and utilities to facilitate ease of use.

### *Effective accessible network and technical services*

A new external web server was installed and a number of older generation servers were taken off-line. The upgraded Internet link is providing greater and faster access for staff and stakeholders and the new link to the Canberra Office has increase productivity and efficiency for the clients. Network and server availability continues to be maintained at a very high level.

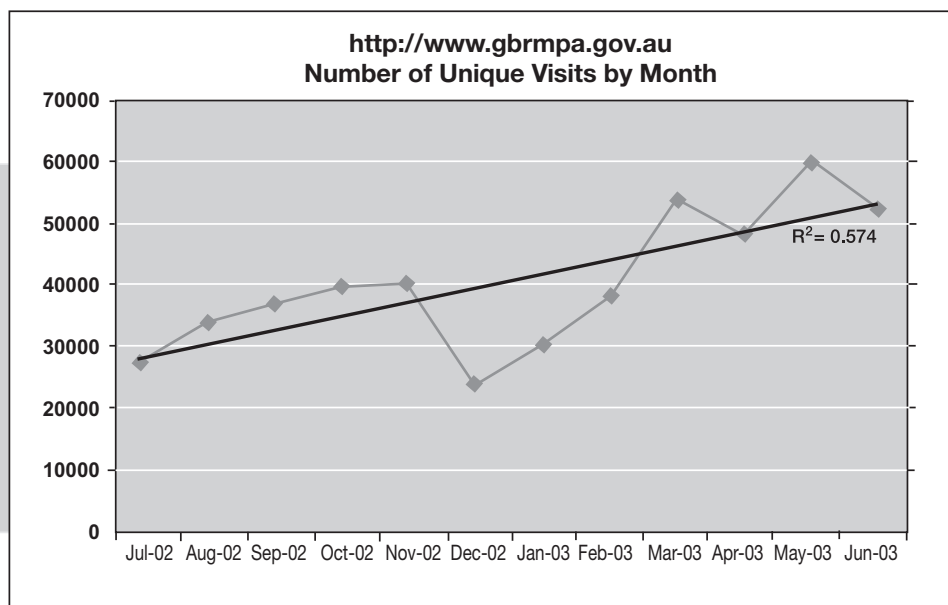


Figure 26: Usage of the GBRMPA website in 2002-03. Source: GBRMPA.

## **Library and Image Services**

Library and Image Services continues to adjust to meet the GBRMPA's changing needs. In order to improve its relevance, efficiency and cost-effectiveness to clients, new services were introduced and existing ones altered accordingly. When doing so, opportunities are always sought for enhancing the management of corporate knowledge or expertise across the agency.

### *Develop the library collection*

Emphasis continued to be placed on increasing the variety and number of electronic services available through Library & Image Services. Subscriptions to the electronic version of journals were significantly increased throughout the year. This service allows desktop access by all staff to the full text versions of a wide range of relevant journal titles. Subscriptions to Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS] publications were rationalised, with an almost 100% transfer from paper to online access to current publications. Staff may now access and download all ABS publications, including statistical tables in spreadsheet format, from 1998 onwards.

The topographic map collections of 1:25,000 and 1:250,000 scale maps were reviewed and updated. The result was a comprehensive cartographic collection that meets clients' spatial data information needs. The Horizon Library management system underwent several major upgrades of software and hardware throughout the year. This was done in preparation for the move to a new web-based library information portal system [iPac] which will occur in 2003-04.

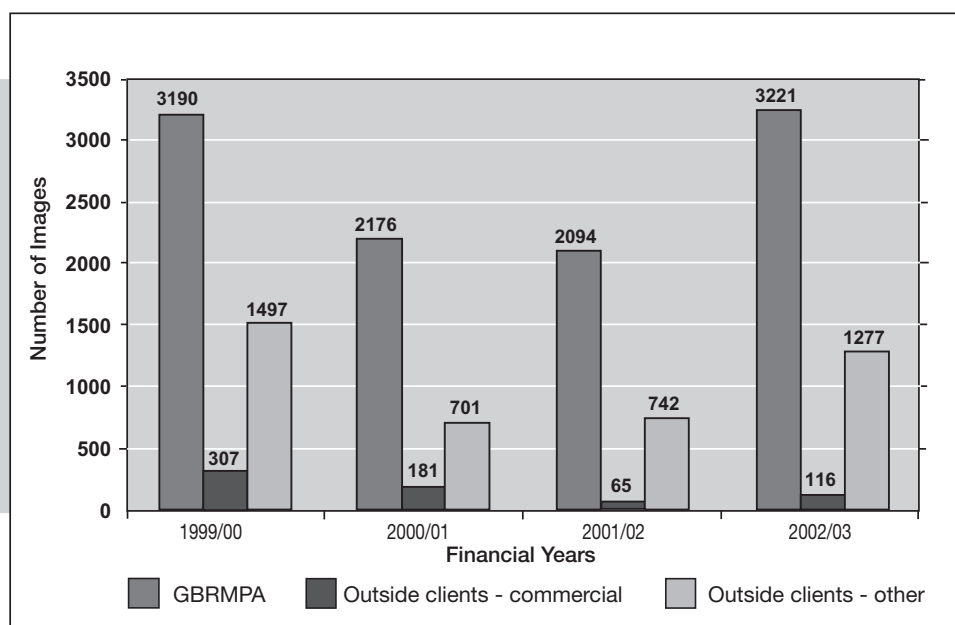
### *Reference service*

Web-based delivery of services is rapidly becoming a cornerstone of information delivery and access. All internal web pages related to Library & Image Services were reviewed for currency and relevance, resulting in more services being available to staff at their desktop. Online database services were increased by changing to a new vendor, which provided more sophisticated delivery of products at significantly reduced costs. This also provided additional opportunities for current awareness services to be offered more widely to staff.

A self-checkout facility was installed, so that staff may borrow and return materials independent of library staff. All interlibrary loan requests were processed the same day of receipt, thus exceeding national standards.

### *Image collection services*

Image services have been in very high demand throughout the year. Image loans for 2002-03 totalled over 5000 images –190% of the previous year's total.



**Figure 27: Use of the GBRMPA Image Library. Source: GBRMPA.**

Major corporate projects such as the ReefHQ refurbishment, development of ReefEd web site, and *Finding Nemo* promotions required the Image Collection Officer to select, scan and deliver several hundred high resolution images within extremely tight timeframes. The outstanding outcome on all these projects is a testament to the high-quality digital image collection available to clients, and to the technical expertise of the Image Collection Officer.

In addition to such heavy client demand, the number of original images catalogued into the collection increased by 200% on the previous year. Significant advances were also made with the ongoing digitisation project, with 3000 images scanned throughout the year as well as the establishment of a separate image library to store corporate images from digital photography.

Image Services successfully launched a Great Barrier Reef Screensaver, available via the agency's web site. This product is an excellent tool for raising awareness of the Great Barrier Reef and increasing GBRMPA's corporate profile, as well as demonstrating the spectacular quality of images available.

#### *REEF bibliographic database*

REEF is a bibliographic database, managed by the GBRMPA and commercially available both in CDROM format and via the Internet through Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology *Informit Online* service. REEF indexes journal articles, books, maps, videos and CDROM that describe or illustrate some aspect of the

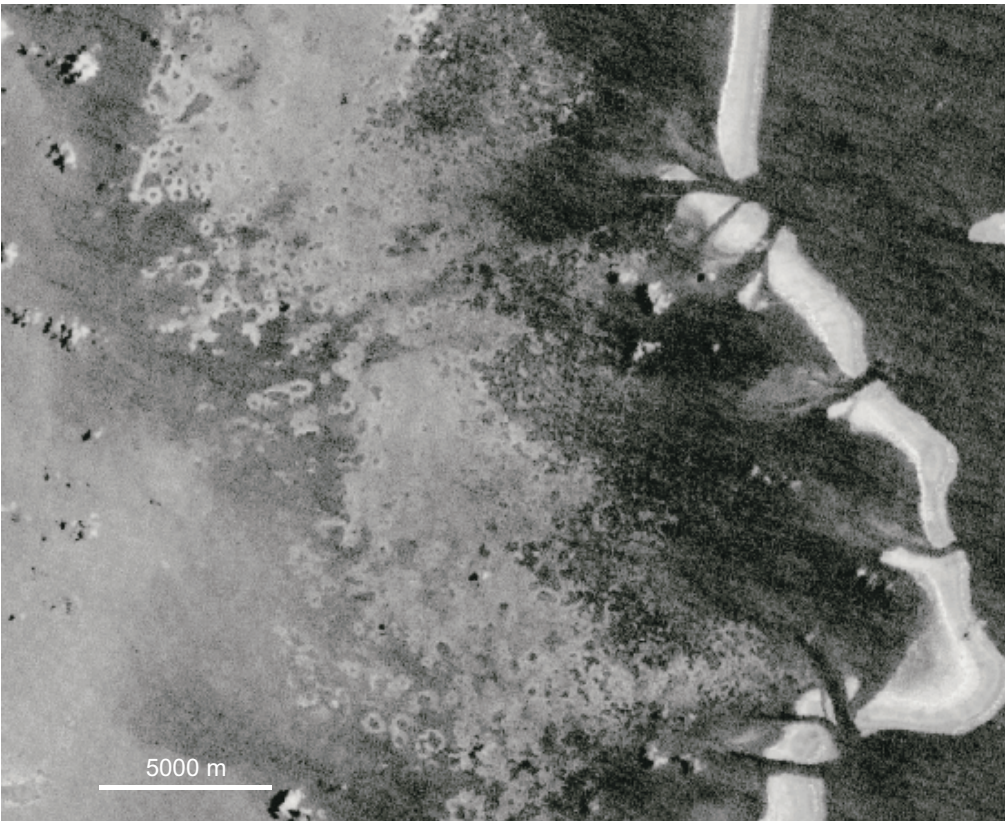


Great Barrier Reef region, or activities that influence that region. Successful outsourcing arrangements for indexing continue. Database updates met all deadlines for 2002-03. Half-yearly revenue had already equalled revenue levels of the previous financial year, with an expectation that the annual revenue total will be considerably higher this year.

### **Spatial Data Centre**

In 2002-03 the Spatial Data Centre [SDC] continued to increase the effectiveness of the agency through better access to, analysis of, and delivery of spatial information.

Primary clients were the Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage group, the Water Quality group, Program Delivery and Day to Day Management [enforcement]. Of these, most went to CB&WH, although major advances were made in information for enforcement [including the first use of satellite imagery in prosecutions] and Program Delivery [in the Far Northern Section



**Plate 2: Submerged reefs in the Far Northern Section near Raine Island, suspected to be *Halimeda* sp. algae beds, identified through the Reef and Shoal Mapping Project.**  
Source: Spatial Data Centre, GBRMPA, 2003.

GBRMPA printed zoning maps directly from GIS databases using automated processes – the first time the organisation has done so].

The SDC played a central and critical role in the CB&WH RAP program. This included compilation and analysis of several thousand map submissions, design and implementation of analyses leading to the Draft Zoning Plan [DZP], design and production of maps to support the DZP, production of legal boundary descriptions, and development of graphical materials showing map overlays, which played a critical role in communicating the DZP to the full range of stakeholders.

Progress continued on the mapping of reefs and shoals in line with the Research Priority of more accurate and detailed maps and spatial information. This project continues to provide GBRMPA with vital increases in capacity to address various issues. The accuracy of the work has led to publication in the official magazine of the Australian Institute of Surveyors. This accuracy has also allowed the products to be used in prosecutions of illegal fishing. The ability to identify new reefs, and to more accurately define known reefs, is proving crucial to the RAP, which requires new boundaries around reefs. The ability to map some previously un-mapped reefs and shoals is important to agency credibility as RAP is implemented.

## Output 1.7 Reef Education and Communication

Community support for conservation and sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef can be achieved through education and awareness of critical issues. Reef HQ is the Reef Education Centre for the Authority.

### Performance analysis

The GBRMPA recognises the importance of fostering a positive attitude to the use and management of the Great Barrier Reef and an understanding of its value to the community, the economy and as World Heritage asset.

During 2002-03, most communications resources were directed towards developing a range of products and communications activities in support of the Representative Areas Program. Outputs included the drafting, editing and production of a range of communications materials, such as brochures, maps and technical documents.

The Communications and Education Section developed and implemented 3 television based campaigns in 2002-03 to inform the public about the threats to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and to provide options in relation to its future conservation and protection. The *Under Pressure* campaign featured 3x30-



## OUTPUT GROUP 1.7 - REEF EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.7.1	Improved Australia-wide profile and community understanding of GBRMPA critical issues group achievements	Quality	Sound communication and education marketing methods used to profile issues and achievements. Informed public debate on significant issues. Reef HQ provides high quality educational focus.	Achieved
		Quantity	Measure of media /education statistics for period against previous benchmark period 1999.	Achieved
			Test outcome of position changes of community attitudes against 1998 benchmark analysis/survey.	Achieved
			Communication and education 3 year operation plan in place.	Achieved
			Reef HQ Aquarium reopened following refurbishment.	Achieved
		Price	\$7.210m	

second television commercials and ran in July and August 2002.

*Reef Watch* was a series of weekly 45-second television commercials that appeared on WIN Television along the Great Barrier Reef coastline. Commencing in February 2003 the segments featured a range of issues affecting the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and outlined positive actions that individuals could take to protect it for the future.

The *Reef Champions* campaign featured Cathy Freeman, Don Burke, Ian Kiernan AO, Dr Evelyn Scott AO, Jessica Skarratt, Gary Howard, Gorden Tallis and members of the Cairns Taipans providing a positive message about it being everyone's responsibility to help protect the Great Barrier Reef for future generations. The campaign aired on all commercial television stations along the Great Barrier Reef coastline from May to the end of the financial year. All the 'Reef Champions' gave their time for free. In addition, media organisations contributed a considerable number of 'free-to-air' slots, which ensure not only that the campaign received huge coverage, but also that costs were kept to a minimum.

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage, David Kemp, officially

launched the Reef ED website [www.reefed.edu.au] on 31 January 2003. The website provides students and teachers with a comprehensive portal to educational programs and products about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. By 30 June 2003, the Reef ED website had seen some 35,000 visitors. People from 100 countries visited the website during its first three months of operation, with the majority of overseas visitors coming from the United States, Britain, New Zealand and Japan.

*Reef Beat* was a 10-week weekly educational supplement that was published in the Newspapers in Education Section of all major regional daily newspapers along the Great Barrier Reef coastline. The supplement provided readers with facts about the Great Barrier Reef and directed them to the Reef ED website to download curriculum-related educational materials for use in a more detailed study.

A school-based community reef protection program known as *Reef Guardians* was developed and trialled in 24 schools the length of the Great Barrier Reef during 2002-03. The program proved so successful that it is likely to be expanded significantly in 2003-04.

## Reef HQ

In recognition of the importance of community education to the future of the Great Barrier Reef, the GBRMPA operates Reef HQ as its principal community education tool.

Reef HQ provides a readily accessible onshore reef environment and interpretive centre which acts as a focal point in the community for both formal and informal learning about the Great Barrier Reef and its management.

Reef HQ's mission is: *To inspire everyone to care for the future of the Great Barrier Reef.*

Reef HQ works with the community to enhance support for the GBRMPA and the GBRWHA through structured community-based programs including the Reef HQ Membership and Reef HQ Volunteer programs.

### Performance analysis

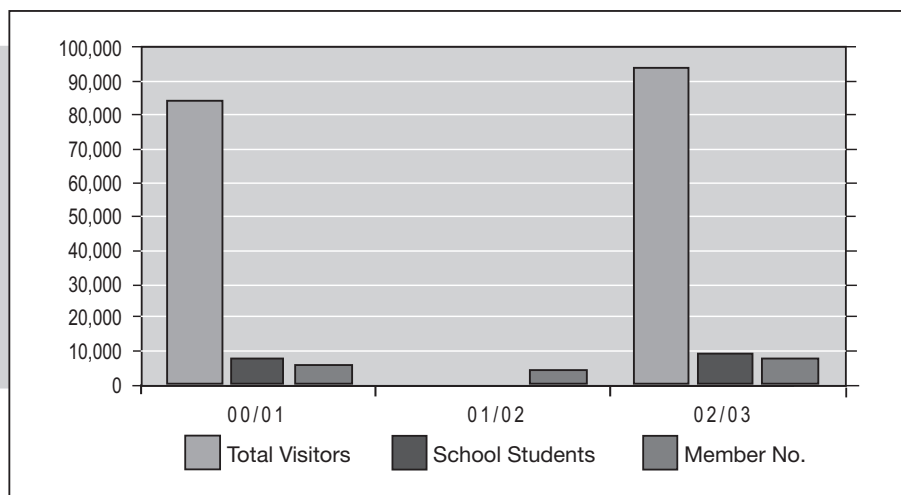
Reef HQ achieves the output by providing a wide range of community education programs including living and static exhibitions, interpretation programs, curriculum-based education programs and community-based activities.

During 2002-03 Reef HQ was formally reopened by the Minister for the

Environment and Heritage, The Hon Dr David Kemp, following significant refurbishment of its building systems and structures. The refurbishment program included a extensive refit of its exhibitions and visitor service facilities, permitting Reef HQ to deliver more effectively the GBRMPA's community education programs.

Effort during 2002-03 has been aimed at increasing the size of the audience to which the GBRMPA's community education programs are delivered.

As Reef HQ was closed for refurbishment from February 2002 to July 2003, comparative performance figures relating to the previous years are available only for the period August 01-January 02. A comparison of performance against the output is included in Figure 28.



**Figure 28: Visitor numbers at Reef HQ from 2000 to 2003. Source: Reef HQ.**

The number of people visiting Reef HQ in 2002-03 increased compared with 2001-02 [August-January] and with 2000-01 [August-June].

The number of schools students receiving Reef HQ education programs increased compared with 2001-02 [August- January] and with 2000-01 [August-June].

Additionally, the number of subscribers to Reef HQ's Membership program, which is aimed at increasing attendance by members of the local community increased by 62.5 per cent in 2002-03 compared with the previous year.

Further opportunities to increase community understanding of the critical issues affecting the GBR in 2002-03 included:

- The recommissioning of the *Discovery Room*, Reef HQ's schools-based learning facility which provides school students of all ages to undertake interactive, reef-related activities.
- The launch of 20 new education programs for schools each with specific teaching units permitting teachers to incorporate the programs into their schools' work program.
- Upgrade of Reef HQ's videoconferencing program for schools [Videolinq]. During the year Reef HQ delivered reef-related videoconferences to more than 600 students both nationally and internationally.
- Registration of Reef HQ as a member of Education Queensland's *The Learning Place* program that permits Reef HQ education staff to conduct online webchats and forums with school students throughout Queensland.

During 2002-03 Reef HQ successfully recruited and trained 39 new adult volunteers and 25 new student volunteers bringing the total number of active volunteers to 153.

During the year volunteers contributed approximately 19,000 hours to assisting Reef HQ deliver the GBRMPA's community education messages to a wider audience.

## CORPORATE SERVICES

Ensuring that the GBRMPA has appropriate systems, resources and support to achieve its objectives is an ongoing priority. Effective use of resources relies on integration of flexible and efficient systems and practices for managing human, physical and financial resources.

### Performance analysis

During 2002-03, Corporate Services' major achievements included:

- Facilitated improved financial management by increased utilization by Managers of reporting capabilities of the Financial Management Information System;
- Ensured staff have an understanding of the GBRMPA, corporate policy, systems and procedures by conducting staff inductions that include human resources, finance and office services;
- Improved Protective Security;
- Finalised consultation on the 2003-06 Agency Certified Agreement by

	Outcome	Outputs	Performance
	To deliver a management framework and support services that help facilitate effective functioning of the GBRMPA.	1. To achieve a corporate planning and financial management framework which is efficient and provides timely, flexible and easily accessible decision support systems to managers and staff.	Achieved
		2. To achieve a human resource management framework that supports the achievement of corporate objectives by attracting and developing high quality staff, promoting teamwork, encouraging innovation, creativity and improving performance.	Achieved
		3. To provide a safe working environment and adequate standard of accommodation and field and office equipment.	Achieved
		4. To provide ongoing corporate services which are benchmarked to appropriate standards and responsive to organisational needs.	Achieved
		5. To ensure the Environment Management Charge is administered in a cost effective and efficient manner and sound relationships with clients are maintained.	Achieved
		6. To provide effective, efficient and professional Secretariat support to the GBRMPA.	Achieved

coordinating Authority Consultative Group [ACG] meetings and managing ACG initiated issues;

- Increased staff capabilities through the provision of levels of training in leadership, performance management, workplace diversity, occupational health and safety and other key APS subject areas;
- Facilitated an Indigenous support network within the GBRMPA as part of the Workplace Diversity Program;
- Continued to develop and enhance the Environment Management Charge compliance framework;
- Successfully introduced the increase to the standard tourist charge by 50 cents per person to \$4.50 per person from 1 April 2003; and
- Providing high quality secretariat services to the Authority and its committee structures.

### *Resource management*

The majority of positions within the GBRMPA were staffed on a continuing basis [See Appendix 5 for details of staffing as at 30 June 2003]. The output groups developed for the portfolio budget statements remain relevant and provide a sound focus for the GBRMPA's activities.

There were some organisation structure changes during the year including the establishment of a Representative Areas Program Taskforce through combining staff of the Planning Unit with the Conservation Group, the inclusion of the Aquaculture Unit within the Water Quality and Coastal Development Group and establishing a closer working relationship between the Tourism and Recreation Group and the Permits Unit. The revised staffing structure was implemented for ReefHQ.

### *Environmental Management Charge*

The GBRMPA collected an Environmental Management Charge [EMC] of \$6.6 million in 2002-03 despite the effects on tourism as a result of SARS, the Iraqi War, Bali bombing and the ongoing threats of terrorist attacks. The GBRMPA is using EMC revenue to fund research, provide user education and manage the Marine Park. A sound compliance framework, which incorporates educational and client review elements, was introduced in 2000-01. It has been managed, adapted and improved to meet ongoing internal and external changes over the last three years. Staff within the EMC Unit are providing ongoing reliable advice and guidance to clients to ensure they are cognisant with their statutory obligations.

The introduction of the new permits database, Protected Environment Management System [PEMS] has had a significant impact on day to day processes and procedures. EMC systems had to be modified to conform to functionalities in PEMS. The modifications were necessary to maintain the objective of ensuring accurate collection of revenue.

The reef visitor database is an integral part of the development of PEMS. The purpose of the database is still to record the number of visitors to each location within the Marine Park. Ultimately, the sophisticated reports available from PEMS will be a valuable resource for managers, planners, the tourism industry and researchers.

### *Payroll services*

Use of an external bureau [with data input from the Human Resources Unit] for payroll services is proving to be a cost-effective strategy. The Human Resource Management Information System is providing valuable information in areas such as training and occupational health and safety. In 2002-03 the system of

user access to payroll records continued to be provided through 'employee self-service' arrangements.

#### *Employee development*

The GBRMPA spent \$103,659 in providing learning and development opportunities for employees during 2002-03. This covered a wide range of activities including leadership, communication and negotiation skills, project management, performance management, information technology plus an array of relevant technical training. Staff are also encouraged to attend conferences to extend their professional expertise.

A review of the Human Resources Unit was conducted which included the creation of a Graduate Human Resources Officer position. The appointment of staff to key positions has provided the opportunity to continue a strategic approach to employee development.

#### *Industrial democracy*

The GBRMPA recognises its employees' contributions by providing a participative, consultative work environment that enables employees to contribute to program development and decision-making processes.

The peak consultative mechanism between management and employees is the Authority Consultative Group [ACG]. This group comprises a mix of management representatives and elected employee representatives. The ACG is scheduled to meet formally every three months with further opportunity to meet monthly. In addition to these formal meetings, elected representatives and management meet on an informal basis to consider issues as they arise.

At each formal meeting of the Authority Consultative Group the following standing agenda items are discussed:

- Staffing and other resources;
- Finances;
- Workplace diversity;
- Accommodation;
- Employee learning and development;
- Occupational health and safety;
- Employee recruitment and selection activities; *and*
- Information technology.

Other issues discussed by the Authority Consultative Group include:

- Changes to human resource management guidelines, policies and procedures;

- Certified agreement updates;
- Work level standards; *and*
- Review of GBRMPA positions.

The focus for the ACG during the year was the development under section 170LK of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* of a new Certified Agreement for 2003-06. Consultations have been completed and the new agreement was certified by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission on 2 July 2003.

The objectives of this Agreement are to offer equitable remuneration and reward packaging, within the contemporary legal and political framework, which facilitates:

- Attraction and retention of high calibre employees;
- Organisational and employee flexibility;
- Development of individual, team and organisational competence;
- Recognition, remuneration and reward for individual and team performance which contributes to organisational success;
- Employee participation and commitment; *and*
- Administrative efficiency [streamlined pay and conditions].

To further improve the GBRMPA's productivity, and to contribute towards achievement of program outcomes the new Certified Agreement sets out the following commitments to:

- Achieve a high degree of employee understanding of, and support for, the goals of the Agency;
- Support the ongoing implementation of APS reforms;
- Foster a high performance culture including implementing the revised Performance Management Scheme, including 360 degree feedback;
- Work cooperatively in implementing the revised travel arrangements, the Representative Areas Program, the Protected Environmental Management System [PEMS] and a strategically focused compliance plan;
- Work cooperatively in the further development and implementation of Finance and Human Resource Management business systems;
- Continuously monitor the feasibility of streamlining work processes and practices, assessing possible savings and improvements;
- Continued commitment to the use of risk management, the development of environmental best practice in the workplace; *and*
- The enhancement of safe and healthy work practices.



### *Equal employment opportunity and workplace diversity*

Equal employment opportunity data for the GBRMPA's staff are provided in Appendix 5. The GBRMPA Workplace Diversity Plan is being implemented.

Workplace diversity outcomes for the year include:\

- Continued family friendly and employee initiatives including flexible work hours;
- Time-off in lieu of overtime, purchased leave, home-based work, part-time employment, carers rooms and maternity leave at half pay;
- Providing access to part-time work particularly for female employees returning to work after periods of maternity leave;
- Continued high-level of use of study leave assistance by equal employment opportunity [EEO] target group members;
- Improved access by staff to timely and comprehensive information on employment related issues through the use of the GBRMPA Intranet;
- Indigenous employees support network; and
- Representation of people with a disability in the workplace.

### *Accommodation*

The majority of GBRMPA staff are accommodated in the Reef HQ complex which is the main office building. The establishment of the RAP Taskforce, the shift of Aquaculture Unit and the closer links for Tourism Group and Permits required some relocation of staff within the building. This was achieved through cooperation of the staff involved. The space vacated by the Parks Information Centre was refurbished for office accommodation and now provides suitable space for the Secretariat Unit and a closer location of the Office Services Unit to service staff needs. The Kelleher Place building provide a reasonable standard of accommodation with further improvements to fire warning systems in progress to improve occupational health and safety.

## SECTION D

# Financial Statements





## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

### Matters relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report

This audit report relates to the financial report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2003 included on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's web site. The members of the Authority are responsible for the integrity of the Authority's web site.

The audit report refers only to the statements named below. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the audited financial report.

If the users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on this web site.

### Scope

I have audited the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2003. The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by Members of the Authority;
- Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows;
- Schedules of Commitments and Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements.

The members of the Authority are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Centenary House 19 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT  
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

The audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards, to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Authority's financial position, its financial performance and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

#### **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion the financial statements:

- (i) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*; and
- (ii) give a true and fair view, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the Finance Minister's Orders, of the financial position of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2003, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspa Dash  
Senior Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
25 September 2003

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY**

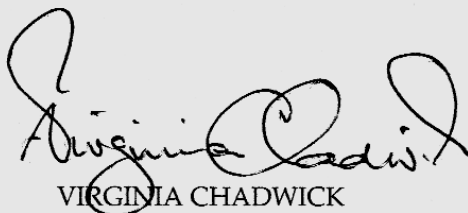
In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2003 give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Authority will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.



FAY BARKER  
Member

24 September 2003



VIRGINIA CHADWICK  
Chairperson

24 September 2003

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

		2003	2002
	Notes	\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>			
Revenues from government	5A	24,005,668	26,419,311
Interest	5B	257,123	183,074
Revenue from Reef HQ shop trading	5C	327,182	305,428
Reef HQ revenues	5D	1,507,516	915,565
Other miscellaneous revenues	5E	3,056,684	2,787,637
Revenue from sale of assets	5F	261	13,944
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	9(a),(c)	4,389,000	4,484,000
<b>Total revenues from ordinary activities</b>		<b>33,543,434</b>	<b>35,108,959</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)</b>			
Employees	6A	11,554,997	11,092,966
Suppliers	6B	10,592,044	11,023,421
Depreciation and amortisation	6C	918,505	748,360
Write-down of assets	6D	13,609	4,045
Grants	7	26,178	25,600
Cost of goods sold from Reef HQ shop trading	5C	142,302	191,187
Value of assets sold	5F	0	244,735
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	9(a),(b)	8,859,942	9,157,538
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)</b>		<b>32,107,577</b>	<b>32,487,852</b>
<b>Borrowing costs expense</b>	8	<b>21,387</b>	<b>42,072</b>
<b>Operating surplus from ordinary activities</b>		<b>1,414,470</b>	<b>2,579,035</b>
<b>Net surplus</b>		<b>1,414,470</b>	<b>2,579,035</b>
Net credit to asset revaluation reserve	15	391,214	0
<b>Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity</b>		<b>391,214</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners</b>		<b>1,805,684</b>	<b>2,579,035</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
as at 30 June 2003

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash	10A	2,768,089	5,442,531
Receivables	10B	2,559,599	2,934,033
Investments	10C	7,986	18,999
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>5,335,674</b>	<b>8,395,563</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Buildings and improvements to leased property	11A	10,348,741	8,357,368
Plant and equipment	11B	1,541,692	685,356
Intangibles	11C	365,345	428,152
Lighthouse properties	11D	391,230	0
Works in progress	11E	31,861	2,033,583
Other	11F	87,029	78,308
Inventories	11G	100,336	44,115
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>12,866,234</b>	<b>11,626,882</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>18,201,908</b>	<b>20,022,445</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Interest bearing liabilities</b>			
Advances from the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA)	12	0	354,121
<b>Total interest bearing liabilities</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>354,121</b>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employees	13A	3,103,715	2,862,706
Capital use charge	13B	127,000	127,000
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>3,230,715</b>	<b>2,989,706</b>
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	14A	1,251,913	3,199,341
Other	14B	646,685	945,382
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>1,898,598</b>	<b>4,144,723</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>5,129,313</b>	<b>7,488,550</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>13,072,595</b>	<b>12,533,895</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity	15	4,204,004	4,203,988
Reserves	15	12,536,799	12,145,585
Accumulated deficits	15	(3,668,208)	(3,815,678)
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>13,072,595</b>	<b>12,533,895</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		<b>5,523,039</b>	<b>8,517,986</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		<b>12,678,869</b>	<b>11,504,459</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		<b>3,647,689</b>	<b>6,084,333</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		<b>1,481,624</b>	<b>1,404,217</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash received			
Appropriations		24,069,000	26,225,000
Permit assessment fees		270,045	258,576
Interest		221,695	182,719
Reef HQ admission fees		1,258,087	730,943
GST recovered from taxation office		1,039,109	662,816
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management		4,389,000	4,484,000
Environmental Management Charge		6,636,668	6,461,933
Other		3,593,595	3,819,305
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>41,477,199</b>	<b>42,825,292</b>
Cash used			
Grants		(26,178)	(25,600)
Employees		(11,312,989)	(10,664,170)
Suppliers		(12,796,301)	(11,734,432)
Borrowing costs		(21,387)	(42,072)
Payments to Consolidated Revenue Fund		(6,700,000)	(6,400,000)
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management		(8,859,942)	(9,157,538)
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>(39,716,797)</b>	<b>(38,023,812)</b>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	16	<b>1,760,402</b>	<b>4,801,480</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		261	13,944
Cash used			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(2,813,984)	(1,246,949)
<b>Net cash (used by) investing activities</b>		<b>(2,813,723)</b>	<b>(1,233,005)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash received			
Appropriations – contributed equity		0	3,100,000
Reimbursement of capital use charge		0	138,000
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>3,238,000</b>
Cash used			
Capital use charge paid		(1,267,000)	(1,448,000)
Repayments of debt		(354,121)	(333,710)
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>(1,621,121)</b>	<b>(1,781,710)</b>
<b>Net cash from / (used by) financing activities</b>		<b>(1,621,121)</b>	<b>1,456,290</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>(2,674,442)</b>	<b>5,024,765</b>
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		5,442,531	417,766
Cash at the end of the reporting period	10A	<b>2,768,089</b>	<b>5,442,531</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS**  
as at 30 June 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>BY TYPE</b>		
Capital commitments		
Land and buildings <sup>1</sup>	40,056	21,348
Plant and equipment <sup>2</sup>	20,790	415,715
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<b>60,846</b>	<b>437,063</b>
Other commitments		
Operating leases <sup>3</sup>	1,587,969	2,220,376
Other commitments <sup>4</sup>	460,836	1,155,456
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<b>2,048,805</b>	<b>3,375,832</b>
Commitments receivable	(191,786)	(346,626)
<b>Net commitments</b>	<b>1,917,865</b>	<b>3,466,269</b>
<b>BY MATURITY</b>		
Capital commitments		
One year or less	60,846	437,063
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	678,731	670,450
From one to five years	909,238	1,549,926
Other commitments		
One year or less	430,586	1,155,456
From one to five years	30,250	0

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

- 1 Land and buildings commitments are primarily purchase orders for ongoing refurbishment of Reef HQ.
- 2 Plant and equipment commitments are primarily purchase orders for leasehold improvements, computer equipment and software.
- 3 Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Nature of Lease	General Description of leasing arrangement
Lease for office accommodation	Lease payments are subject to current open market rent review in 2004. The initial period is still current. The term of first option for renewal is 3 years. The term of second option for renewal is 3 years.
Leases for office equipment	Lease payments are paid monthly

- 4 As at 30 June 2003, other commitments comprise amounts to be paid under contracts for consultancy services and purchase orders for other services and supplies.

Commitments to the Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef) are not included above and are disclosed at Note 22.

In addition, the Authority has a lease arrangement with the Townsville Port Authority in relation to the Reef HQ building for a nominal amount payable if demanded.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES**  
as at 30 June 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES		
Claims for damages/costs	<u>0</u>	<u>30,000</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>30,000</u>

The amount disclosed for the 2001-2002 year was an estimate of legal costs which may have been payable on a continuing case.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note	Description
1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2	Reporting by Segments and Outcomes
3	Economic Dependency
4	Events Occurring After Reporting Date
5	Operating Revenues
6	Operating Expenses – Goods and Services
7	Operating Expenses - Grants
8	Borrowing Costs Expense
9	Day-to-day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
10	Financial Assets
11	Non-Financial Assets
12	Interest Bearing Liabilities
13	Provisions
14	Payables
15	Equity
16	Cash Flow Reconciliation
17	Repayment of Advances from Department of Finance and Administration
18	Remuneration of Members
19	Related Party Disclosures
20	Remuneration of Officers
21	Remuneration of Auditors
22	Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
23	Cash Bonds
24	Financial Instruments
25	Average Staffing Levels
26	Financial Statements: Day-to-day Management
27	Reporting by Outcomes Information

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**1.1 Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements are required by clause 1(b) of Schedule 1 to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and are a general purpose financial report.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (being the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2003) Orders*);
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group.

The Statements of Financial Performance and Financial Position have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets which, as noted, are at valuation. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or on the financial position.

Assets and liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. Assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are however not recognized unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies.

Revenues and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when and only when the flow or consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

**1.2 Changes in Accounting Policies**

The accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are consistent with those used in 2001-2002, except in respect of:

- measurement of certain employee benefits at nominal amounts (refer to Note 1.6); and
- the initial revaluation of property plant and equipment on a fair value basis (refer to Note 1.12).

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**1.3 Reporting by Outcomes**

A comparison of actual figures across accounting periods by outcome specified in the Appropriation Acts relevant to the Authority is presented in Note 27. Any intra-government costs included in the figure 'net cost to Budget outcomes' are eliminated in calculating the actual budget outcome for the Government overall.

**1.4 Revenue**

The revenues described in this Note are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the Authority. Details of revenue amounts are given in Note 5.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised upon the delivery of goods to customers.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from disposal of non-current assets is recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts. The stage of completion is determined according to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

*Revenues from Government – Output Appropriations*

The full amount of the appropriation for departmental outputs for the year is recognised as revenue.

**1.5 Transactions by the Government as Owner**

*Equity Injections*

Amounts appropriated by the Parliament as equity injections are recognised as 'contributed equity' in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders.

*Capital Use Charge*

A Capital Use Charge is imposed by the Government on the net assets of the Authority. The Charge is accounted for as a dividend to Government. In accordance with the recommendations of a review of Budget Estimates and Framework, the Government has decided that the Charge will not operate after 30 June 2003. Therefore, the amount of the charge payable in respect of 2003 is the amount appropriated (2002: 11% of adjusted net assets).

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**1.6 Employee Benefits**

*Benefits*

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at the reporting date to the extent that they have not been settled.

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and sick leave are measured at their nominal amounts. Other employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months of their reporting date are also to be measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability. This is a change in accounting policy from last year required by initial application of a change in Accounting Standard AASB 1028 from 1 July 2002. As the Authority's certified agreement raised pay rates on certification of the agreement or 1 July each year, the financial effect of this change is not material.

All other employee benefit liabilities are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

*Leave*

The liability for employee entitlements includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave to be taken in future years by employees of the Authority is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, including the Authority's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2003. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

*Superannuation*

Employees of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) and the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS). The liability for their superannuation benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Commonwealth and is settled by the Commonwealth in due course.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority makes employer contributions to the Commonwealth at rates determined by the actuary to be sufficient to meet the cost to the Commonwealth of the superannuation entitlements of the Authority's employees. The rates in 2002-03 were; (CSS) 19.9% of salary and (PSS) 11.0% of salary, (2001-02; (CSS) 19.9% and (PSS) 11.0%).

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June 2003 represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

**1.7 Leases**

A distinction is made between finance leases, which effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets, and operating leases, under which the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

Where a non-current asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease and a liability recognised at the same amount. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense. Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease. As at 30 June 2003 the Authority had no finance leases.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

**1.8 Borrowing costs**

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

**1.9 Cash**

Cash means notes and coins held and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**1.10 Financial Instruments**

Accounting policies for financial instruments are stated at Note 24.

**1.11 Acquisition of Assets**

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor entity's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

**1.12 Buildings and leasehold improvements, plant and equipment**

*Asset recognition threshold*

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, except for purchases costing less than \$5,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

*Reef HQ*

The Reef HQ building was funded as a Commonwealth-State Bicentennial project, through the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated. The building was sub-leased by the Authority from the Association for a period of 75 years, the end date for the lease being in the year 2061. Following the winding up of the Association in September 2001 that lease arrangement is now between the Authority and the Townsville Port Authority. Under the terms of the arrangement the Authority is responsible for the maintenance of the building as necessary and for all expenses and revenue in relation to its operation. Consequently, the value of improvements to the building and associated plant and equipment is shown as an asset in the Authority's accounts.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

*Revaluations*

Buildings, plant and equipment are carried at valuation. Revaluations undertaken up to 30 June 2002 were done on a deprival basis; valuations since that date are by members at fair value. This change in accounting policy is required by Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1041 'Revaluation of Non-Current Assets'.

Fair and deprival values for each class of assets are determined as shown below.

Asset Class	Fair Value Measured at:	Deprival Value Measured at:
Buildings	Depreciated replacement cost	Depreciated replacement cost
Leasehold improvements	Depreciated replacement cost	Depreciated replacement cost
Plant & Equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Depreciated replacement cost
Lighthouse properties	Present value of future lease payments	Present value of future lease payments

In 2001-02 a major refurbishment of the Reef HQ Building was undertaken. The refurbishment continued into the 2002-03 financial year and consequently it was seen to be inappropriate to undertake any revaluation of the facility during this process. As a result, the fair value of the building and associated plant and equipment has been maintained by members at the depreciated replacement cost of the asset.

Under both deprival and fair value, assets which are surplus to requirements are measured at their net realisable value. At 30 June 2003 the Authority held no surplus assets (30 June 2002: \$0).

The financial effect for 2002-03 of this change in policy relates to those assets to be recognised at fair value at 30 June 2003. The financial effect of the change is given by the difference between the carrying amount at 30 June 2002 of these assets and their fair values as at 1 July 2002. The financial effect of this change is not material.

Accounting Standard AAS 6 *Accounting Policies* requires, where practicable, presentation of the information that would have been disclosed in the 2001-02 Statements had the new accounting policy always been applied. It is impracticable to present this information.

*Frequency*

Buildings and leasehold improvements and plant and equipment are each revalued progressively in successive 3-year cycles. The current cycles commenced in 2003-04.

Assets in each class acquired after the commencement of a revaluation cycle are not captured by the progressive revaluation then in progress.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

*Conduct*

All valuations are conducted by an independent qualified valuer or by members of the Authority if impracticable to obtain an independent qualified valuer.

*Recoverable Amount test*

From 1 July 2002, Schedule 1 no longer requires the application of the recoverable amount test in AAS 10 *Recoverable Amount of Non-Current Assets* to the assets of authorities when the primary purpose of the asset is not the generation of net cash inflows.

*Depreciation and Amortisation*

Depreciable plant and equipment assets are written off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the Authority using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation. Leasehold improvements are amortised on a straight-line basis over the lesser of the estimated useful life of the improvements or the unexpired period of the lease.

Depreciation/amortisation rates (useful lives) and methods are reviewed at each balance date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate. Residual values are re-estimated for a change in prices only when assets are revalued.

Depreciation and amortisation rates applying to each class of depreciable assets are as follows:

	2003	2002
Buildings	50 years	50 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Lighthouse properties	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and equipment	3 to 20 years	3 to 20 years

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 6C.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**1.13 Intangibles**

The Authority's intangibles comprise externally-acquired software for internal use. The asset is carried at cost.

From 1 July 2002, Schedule 1 no longer requires the application of the recoverable amount test in Australian Accounting Standard AAS 10 *Recoverable Amount of Non-Current Assets* to the assets of authorities when the primary purpose of the asset is not the generation of net cash inflows.

However Schedule 1 now requires such assets, if carried on the cost basis, to be assessed for indications of impairment. The carrying amount of impaired assets must be written down to the higher of its net market selling price or depreciated replacement cost.

All software assets were assessed for impairment. None were found to be impaired.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over their anticipated useful lives as follows:

	2003	2002
Externally acquired software	3 to 8 years	3 to 8 years

**1.14 Lighthouse properties**

During 2002-03, ownership of a number of lighthouse properties within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was transferred from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. At the same time the Queensland Government provided clear title to Low Isles and Dent Island. The properties had been the subject of contracts for transfer for some time, however the completion of the contracts was subject to the provision of clear title. The acquisition of these properties has been recognised in the 2002-03 financial statements.

As the properties have been acquired for nominal consideration and as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements they have been initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor entity's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

Two of the properties are subject to ongoing leases to a third party. Under the leases the third party is required to pay monthly rental to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and these properties have been revalued by members at fair value, which has been assessed as the present value of the future lease payments payable under the leases. Accordingly, the increment has been recognised in the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

The financial effect of the acquisition and subsequent revaluation of the properties has been a debit to assets (Lighthouse properties) of \$391,230; a credit to contributed equity of \$16 and a credit to asset revaluation reserve of \$391,214.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**1.15 Inventories**

Goods held for resale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is determined as the purchase cost on a first-in-first-out basis.

**1.16 Taxation**

The Authority is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax and the goods and services tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST:

- except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- except for receivables and payables.

**1.17 Comparative Figures**

Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in these financial statements.

**1.18 Insurance**

The Authority has insured for risks through the Government's insurable risk managed fund called 'Comcover'. This includes insurance cover for the operation of Reef HQ. Worker's compensation is insured through Comcare Australia.

**1.19 Day-to-Day Management Advances**

Except for expenditure on fixtures upon land owned by or under the direct control of the Commonwealth or the Authority, payments to the Queensland Department of the Environmental Protection Agency for day-to-day management are fully expensed in the year of payment (refer to note 9 for details of the day-to-day management items).

**2 REPORTING BY SEGMENTS AND OUTCOMES**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority operates primarily in a single industry and geographic segment and is the Commonwealth Statutory Authority responsible for the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Protection of the environment, especially those aspects that are matters of national environmental significance is a major aim of the Government.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

The Authority is included in Outcome 1 of the Environment and Heritage Portfolio. The specific sub-outcome for the Authority is the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef. Additional information on reporting by outcomes is at Note 27.

**3 ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority was established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and is controlled by the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Authority is dependent on appropriations from the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia for its continued existence and ability to carry out its normal duties.

**4 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE**

There have been no events occurring after reporting date which have the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the Authority.

**5 OPERATING REVENUES**

<u>5A Revenues from government</u>	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Appropriations:		
Operational	12,980,000	15,318,000
Special Appropriation	6,636,668	6,594,311
Commonwealth contribution to day-to-day management: refer Note 9(c)	4,389,000	4,507,000
	<u>24,005,668</u>	<u>26,419,311</u>

Special Appropriation: The Authority, as agent for the Commonwealth, collects an Environmental Management Charge (EMC). Amounts collected are paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund and then paid back to the Authority as a Special Appropriation. The amount shown above represents actual amounts received through Special Appropriation plus an accrual for amounts due to be paid to the Authority as Special Appropriation for the year ended 30 June 2003.

<u>5B Interest</u>	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Term deposits	129,800	38,885
Bank accounts	127,323	144,189
	<u>257,123</u>	<u>183,074</u>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

<u>5C Reef HQ shop trading results</u>	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Shop Sales	327,182	305,428
Less: Cost of goods sold		
Opening Stock	44,115	117,208
Purchases	194,900	118,094
Less: Closing Stock	96,713	44,115
Cost of goods sold	<u>142,302</u>	<u>191,187</u>
Gross profit from shop trading	<u>184,880</u>	<u>114,241</u>
 <u>5D Reef HQ revenues</u>	 2003	 2002
	\$	\$
Admission fees	1,143,716	664,494
Donations and sponsorships	175	3,943
Membership program	85,452	54,081
Other	278,173	193,047
	<u>1,507,516</u>	<u>915,565</u>
 <u>5E Other miscellaneous revenues</u>	 2003	 2002
	\$	\$
Project revenue from Related Entities	1,320,684	141,981
Project revenue from External Entities	104,271	19,400
Other revenue - from External Entities		
- Sale of Authority education and information materials	19,084	27,604
- Permit assessment fees	270,045	258,576
- Fines	37,885	59,988
- Reimbursement of monitoring costs	942,790	1,648,830
- Cost recovery	256,170	386,368
- Other	105,755	244,890
	<u>3,056,684</u>	<u>2,787,637</u>
 <u>5F Net gain / (loss) on sale of assets</u>	 2003	 2002
	\$	\$
Property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from disposal	261	13,944
Net book value of assets disposed	<u>0</u>	<u>244,735</u>
Net gain / (loss) from disposal of property, plant and equipment	<u>261</u>	<u>(230,791)</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

6 OPERATING EXPENSES - GOODS AND SERVICES

6A Employee expenses	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Wages and salaries	8,907,329	8,323,986
Superannuation	1,265,144	1,195,042
Leave and other entitlements	1,151,007	1,346,429
Separation and redundancy	121,601	84,258
Other employee benefits	72,606	100,984
<b>Total employee benefits expenses</b>	<b>11,517,687</b>	<b>11,050,699</b>
Workers compensation premiums	37,310	42,267
<b>Total employee expenses</b>	<b>11,554,997</b>	<b>11,092,966</b>

6B Suppliers expenses	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Supply of goods and services from Related Entities	419,889	474,261
Supply of goods and services from External Entities	9,109,335	9,709,681
Repairs and maintenance from External Entities	421,680	208,209
Operating lease rentals	641,140	631,270
	<b>10,592,044</b>	<b>11,023,421</b>

6C Depreciation	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	918,505	748,360
	<b>918,505</b>	<b>748,360</b>

The aggregate amounts of depreciation allocated during the reporting period as expense for each class of depreciable asset are as follows:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Buildings	354,664	246,299
Leasehold improvements	226,675	215,603
Plant and equipment	337,166	286,458
	<b>918,505</b>	<b>748,360</b>

6D Write-down of assets	2003	2002
	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets:</b>		
Bad and doubtful debts expense - Receivables for goods and services	2,595	4,045
Investment	11,014	0
	<b>13,609</b>	<b>4,045</b>

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**7 OPERATING EXPENSES - GRANTS**

The Authority makes grants (Augmentative Research Grants) to universities to provide financial support to students undertaking marine related research and to voluntary community groups providing educational activities relevant to the marine environment.

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Augmentative research grants	3,640	9,600
Grants to voluntary community groups	4,000	4,000
Grants to universities	12,500	12,000
Other	6,038	0
	<u>26,178</u>	<u>25,600</u>

**8 BORROWING COSTS EXPENSE**

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Interest on advances from DOFA	21,387	42,072
	<u>21,387</u>	<u>42,072</u>

**9**

**DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**

- (a) Principles agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments relating to the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park provide for:

The Queensland Department of Environment, now known as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, subject to the instructions from the Authority in accordance with intergovernmental agreements;

The Commonwealth to fund 100% of an initial capital works program required to establish management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park on a sound basis; other capital costs (ie, the post-initial program) of day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to be shared equally between the two Governments;

The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments to meet in equal shares the recurrent costs for the day-to-day management in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (which may include Queensland national parks or Queensland marine parks, the use or management of which would or might affect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park);



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Moveable property funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used and administered by Queensland; proceeds from the sale of any such moveable property are paid into the day-to-day management account to offset Commonwealth/Queensland contributions on a 50:50 basis;

Fixed assets funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used by Queensland and administered by the Government (or the Authority) which owns or controls the land on which the fixture is located;

Expenditure on day-to-day management to be in accordance with an annually agreed programme; and

The Authority to administer funds provided by the Commonwealth and Queensland for these purposes.

- (b) Expenditure on day-to-day management for 2002-2003 was \$8,859,942 (2001-2002 \$9,157,538).
- (c) Revenue received from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and from other sources:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Commonwealth Government appropriation:		
Recurrent and post Initial		
Capital Programs: refer: Note 5A	4,389,000	4,507,000
Queensland Government contribution	4,389,000	4,484,000
From other sources	88,045	81,942
Total	<u>8,866,045</u>	<u>9,072,942</u>

- (d) The receipt and expenditure of day-to-day management cash resources is reconciled as follows:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Funds available 1 July	187,321	271,959
Plus revenue received	8,866,045	9,072,942
Less expenditure	8,859,942	9,157,538
Less bank fees	0	42
Funds available 30 June	<u>193,424</u>	<u>187,321</u>

Included in the amount of funds available at 30 June 2003 is an amount of \$88,045 relating to Permit Application Assessment Fees yet to be transferred to the Day-to-day Management Bank Account from the Authority's Operations Bank Account.

- (e) Financial statements for day-to-day management which have been prepared by the EPA and audited by the Queensland Auditor-General are at Note 26.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
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10 FINANCIAL ASSETS

<u>10A Cash</u>	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Day-to-day management account	105,379	187,321
Cash on hand	49,660	4,923
Authority operations account	2,613,050	5,250,287
	<u>2,768,089</u>	<u>5,442,531</u>

<u>10B Receivables</u>	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Trade debtors	373,507	524,566
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	371,007	522,066
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	<u>1,957,091</u>	<u>2,020,422</u>
	2,328,098	2,542,488
Other debtors	10,019	162
Interest receivable	39,093	3,663
GST receivable	<u>182,389</u>	<u>387,720</u>
	<u>2,559,599</u>	<u>2,934,033</u>

Receivables (gross) are aged as follows:

Not overdue	2,552,826	2,865,809
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	2,956	58,163
- 30 to 60 days	2,754	1,245
- 60 to 90 days	1,213	0
- more than 90 days	<u>2,350</u>	<u>11,316</u>
	<u>2,562,099</u>	<u>2,936,533</u>

The provision for doubtful debts is aged as follows:

Not overdue	0	0
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	0	0
- 30 to 60 days	0	0
- 60 to 90 days	150	0
- more than 90 days	<u>2,350</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>

<u>10C Investments</u>	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Shares	<u>7,986</u>	<u>18,999</u>
	<u>7,986</u>	<u>18,999</u>

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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At 30 June 2003, the Authority held shares in two listed companies, Baycorp Advantage Limited and Insurance Australia Group Limited (formerly NRMA Insurance). The shares were acquired in the 2001-02 financial year as a result of the companies being listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX). Previously the Authority had been a subscriber to Baycorp Advantage and a member of the NRMA. When the companies were listed on the ASX the shares were acquired at no cost.

**11 NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS**

<u>11A Buildings and Leasehold Improvements</u>	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Buildings and improvements to property</b>		
- at 2000 valuation (deprival)	0	10,724,725
Accumulated depreciation	0	(3,186,962)
	0	7,537,763
- at Net Recoverable Amount	0	7,642
Accumulated depreciation	0	(7,642)
	0	0
- at 2003 Members valuation (fair value)	13,230,055	0
Accumulated depreciation	(3,526,412)	0
	9,703,643	0
	9,703,643	7,537,763
<b>Improvements to leasehold property</b>		
- at cost	0	1,104,277
Accumulated depreciation	0	(284,672)
	0	819,605
- at 2003 Members valuation (fair value)	1,156,445	0
Accumulated depreciation	(511,347)	0
	645,098	0
	645,098	819,605
<b>Total Buildings and Leasehold Improvements</b>	<b>10,348,741</b>	<b>8,357,368</b>
 <u>11B Plant and Equipment</u>	 2003 \$	 2002 \$
- at 2000 valuation (deprival)	0	477,117
Accumulated depreciation	0	(214,756)
	0	262,361
- at Net Recoverable Amount	0	4,560
Accumulated depreciation	0	(4,560)
	0	0
- at cost	0	1,825,449
Accumulated depreciation	0	(1,402,454)
	0	422,995

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<u>11B Plant and Equipment (cont.)</u>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	\$	\$
- at 2003 Members valuation (fair value)	3,391,032	0
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,849,340)</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>1,541,692</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Plant and Equipment</b>	<b><u>1,541,692</u></b>	<b><u>685,356</u></b>
 <u>11C Intangibles</u>	 <b>2003</b>	 <b>2002</b>
	\$	\$
Computer software		
Externally acquired	683,436	649,842
Accumulated amortisation	<u>(318,091)</u>	<u>(221,690)</u>
<b>Total intangibles</b>	<b><u>365,345</u></b>	<b><u>428,152</u></b>
 <u>11D Lighthouse Properties</u>	 <b>2003</b>	 <b>2002</b>
	\$	\$
- at 2003 Members valuation (fair value)	<u>391,230</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Lighthouse Properties</b>	<b><u>391,230</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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11E Analysis of Property, Plant and Equipment

TABLE A — Movement summary 2002-03 for all assets irrespective of valuation basis

	Buildings and Leasehold Improvements	Plant and Equipment	Computer software	Lighthouse Properties	Work in Progress	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
As at 1 July 2002						
Gross book value	11,836,642	2,307,126	649,842	0	2,033,583	16,827,193
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	(3,479,274)	(1,621,770)	(221,690)	0	0	(5,322,734)
Net book value	8,357,368	685,356	428,152	0	2,033,583	11,504,459
<b>Additions</b>						
by purchase	52,168	52,788	33,594	0	1,563,135	1,701,685
Transfer from work in progress to categories	2,503,044	1,061,813	0	0	(3,564,857)	0
Acquisitions from restructure	0	0	0	16	0	16
Net revaluation increment	0	0	0	391,214	0	391,214
Depreciation / Amortisation expense	(563,839)	(258,265)	(96,401)	0	0	(918,505)
<b>Disposals</b>						
Gross book value	5,355	30,695	0	0	0	36,050
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	(5,355)	(30,695)	0	0	0	(36,050)
<b>As at 30 June 2003</b>						
Gross book value	14,386,499	3,391,032	683,436	391,230	31,861	18,884,058
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	(4,037,758)	(1,849,340)	(318,091)	0	0	(6,205,189)
Net book value	10,348,741	1,541,692	365,345	391,230	31,861	12,678,869

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**TABLE B — Summary of balances of assets at valuation as at 30 June**

Item:	Buildings and Leasehold Improvements	Plant and Equipment	Computer Software	Lighthouse Properties	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>As at 30 June 2003</b>					
Gross value	14,386,500	3,391,032	0	391,230	18,168,762
Accumulated Depreciation/	(4,037,759)	(1,849,340)	0	0	(5,887,099)
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>10,348,741</b>	<b>1,541,692</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>391,230</b>	<b>12,281,663</b>

	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>As at 30 June 2002</b>					
Gross value	11,836,644	481,677	0	0	12,318,321
Accumulated Depreciation/	(3,479,276)	(219,316)	0	0	(3,698,592)
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>8,357,368</b>	<b>262,361</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,619,729</b>

11F Other Non-financial assets

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Other prepayments	87,029	78,308
	<u>87,029</u>	<u>78,308</u>

All prepayments are current assets.

11G Inventories

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Inventories held for sale	100,336	44,115
	<u>100,336</u>	<u>44,115</u>

All inventories are current assets.

**12 INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES**

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Advances from Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA)		
Reef HQ	0	242,685
Redundancies	0	111,436
	<u>0</u>	<u>354,121</u>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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Advances from DOFA as at 30 June are payable as follows:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Maturity schedule for loans:		
Payable:		
Within one year	0	354,121
	<u>0</u>	<u>354,121</u>

**13 PROVISIONS**

<u>13A Employees</u>	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Salaries and wages	291,821	221,401
Superannuation	45,498	33,315
Provision for long service leave	1,577,143	1,493,364
Provision for annual leave	1,181,382	1,106,077
Other	7,871	8,549
	<u>3,103,715</u>	<u>2,862,706</u>
Current	1,622,091	1,458,489
Non-current	1,481,624	1,404,217
	<u>3,103,715</u>	<u>2,862,706</u>

<u>13B Capital Use Charge Payable</u>	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Capital Use Charge	<u>127,000</u>	<u>127,000</u>
Balance owing 1 July	127,000	0
Capital Use Charge provided for during the period	1,267,000	1,575,000
Capital Use Charge Paid	<u>1,267,000</u>	<u>1,448,000</u>
Balance owing 30 June	<u>127,000</u>	<u>127,000</u>

The Capital Use Charge is a current liability.

**14 PAYABLES**

<u>14A Suppliers</u>	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Trade creditors	1,166,872	2,004,597
Amounts owing for property, plant and equipment purchases	85,041	1,194,744
	<u>1,251,913</u>	<u>3,199,341</u>

All supplier payables are current.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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<u>14B Other</u>	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Current liabilities		
Revenue received in advance	126,199	365,755
Amounts owed to the Commonwealth	507,091	570,423
Other	13,395	9,204
	<u>646,685</u>	<u>945,382</u>

All other payables are current liabilities.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**15 EQUITY**

**Analysis of Equity**

Item	Contributed Equity		Accumulated results		Special Purpose Reserves		Asset Revaluation Reserve		Other Reserves		Total Equity	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance 1 July	4,203,988	1,103,988	(3,815,678)	(4,831,713)	200,000	200,000	3,569,542	3,569,542	8,376,043	8,376,043	12,533,895	8,417,860
Operating Result Surplus/(Deficit)	0	0	1,414,470	2,579,035	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,414,470	2,579,035
Net Revaluation Increment	0	0	0	0	0	0	391,214	0	0	0	391,214	0
Contributions by owner: Restructuring	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0
Capital Use Charge Incurred for the period	0	0	(1,267,000)	(1,575,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,267,000)	(1,575,000)
Capital Use Charge Repaid by DOFA	0	0	0	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,000
Contribution of equity: Appropriation	0	3,100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,100,000
Closing balance as at 30 June	4,204,004	4,203,988	(3,668,208)	(3,815,678)	200,000	200,000	3,960,756	3,569,542	8,376,043	8,376,043	13,072,595	12,533,895
Total equity attributable to the Commonwealth	4,204,004	4,203,988	(3,668,208)	(3,815,678)	200,000	200,000	3,960,756	3,569,542	8,376,043	8,376,043	13,072,595	12,533,895

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**16 CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION**

Reconciliation of operating surplus / (deficit) to net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Operating surplus / (deficit)	1,414,470	2,579,035
Depreciation	918,505	748,360
Write-down of assets	13,609	4,045
Gain / (loss) on disposal of non-current assets	(261)	230,791
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in receivables	374,434	(228,451)
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	(56,221)	75,511
(Increase) / decrease in other assets	(8,721)	(9,676)
Increase / (decrease) in employee liabilities	241,009	499,324
Increase / (decrease) in suppliers	(837,725)	661,744
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	(298,697)	240,797
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	<u>1,760,402</u>	<u>4,801,480</u>

**17 REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The Department of Finance and Administration determined that certain funds appropriated for the purposes of Reef HQ were repayable advances. There have been two such advances \$450,000 in 1986-87 for establishment costs; and \$1,000,000 in 1989-90.

The advances were repaid by an annual instalment with the final instalment paid in the 2002-2003 financial year. Interest on the outstanding principal was charged at the long-term bond rate.

The Authority also received a repayable advance of \$410,000 in the 1998-99 financial year to offset the costs of redundancies in that year. This advance was repaid over four years with the final instalment paid in the 2002-2003 financial year. Interest on the outstanding principal was charged at the long-term bond rate.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**18 REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS**

Remuneration - Members of the Authority

The number of Members of the Authority included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands:

	2003	2002
\$Nil - \$9,999	0	2
\$10,000 - \$19,999	3	1
\$170,000 - \$179,999	0	1
\$200,000 - \$209,999	1	0
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	\$	\$
Aggregate amount of superannuation payments in connection with the retirement of Members	17,831	17,422
Other remuneration received or due and receivable by Members of the Authority	<u>224,739</u>	<u>187,723</u>
<b>Total remuneration received or due and receivable by Members of the Authority</b>	<b><u>242,570</u></b>	<b><u>205,145</u></b>

The members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) consist of a full-time Chair and three part-time members. The full-time Chair is also the Chief Executive Officer of the GBRMPA. Members are appointed by the Governor-General and receive remuneration as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal.

**19 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

Members of the Authority

The members of the Marine Park Authority during the financial year were:

Hon Virginia Chadwick (full-time Chair and Chief Executive Officer);  
Dr Evelyn Scott AO (part-time member);  
Ms Fay Barker (part-time member);  
Dr Leo Keliher (part-time member).

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**Remuneration**

The aggregate remuneration of Members is disclosed at Note 18.

**Authority Members' interest in contracts**

On the basis of statements declared by Members in accordance with s. 16A of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act or s. 21 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997, no authority Member has received or become entitled to receive a benefit, other than a benefit included in the aggregate of remuneration received or due and receivable shown at Note 18 by reason of a contract made by the Authority Member or with a firm of which the Authority Member is a Member or with a company in which the Authority Member has a substantial interest.

**20 REMUNERATION OF OFFICERS**

The number of officers who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more:

	2003	2002
\$100,000 - \$109,999	3	4
\$110,000 - \$119,999	2	2
\$120,000 - \$129,999	0	1
\$150,000 - \$159,999	2	0
\$160,000 - \$169,999	2	2
	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

	\$	\$
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of officers shown above:	<u>1,185,674</u>	<u>1,090,623</u>

The aggregate amount of separation and redundancy/termination benefit payments during the year to officers shown above:	<u>85,651</u>	<u>-</u>
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The officer remuneration includes all officers concerned with or taking part in the management of the Authority during 2002-2003 except the Chairperson. Details in relation to the Chairperson have been incorporated into Note 18 Remuneration – Members of the Authority.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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<b>21 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.	41,000	41,000
No other services were provided by the Auditor-General during the reporting period.		

**22 CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE GREAT BARRIER REEF WORLD HERITAGE AREA**

The Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef) was established to provide strategic scientific information, education and training to enhance reef-based industry and management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. As at 30 June 2003, the Authority's commitment to the CRC Reef, in cash contributions, 'in kind' contributions and amounts payable from EMC collections was:

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Within one year	2,325,000	2,325,000
From one to two years	2,325,000	2,325,000
From two to five years	2,325,000	4,650,000
	<u>6,975,000</u>	<u>9,300,000</u>
	1,995,000	1,260,000
	1,240,000	1,240,000
	665,000	420,000
	665,000	420,000
	665,000	420,000

**23 CASH BONDS**

As a condition of some permits, a bond is required to be lodged with the Authority. Some permit holders have provided a cash bond in lieu of a bank guarantee.

**Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2003**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash at bank 1 July	183,512	46,066
<b>RECEIPTS</b> Cash bonds	100,000	140,000
Interest	4,194	2,468
	<u>287,706</u>	<u>188,534</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b> Return of Bonds	156,243	5,000
Bank fees	29	22
Cash at bank 30 June	<u>131,434</u>	<u>183,512</u>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**for the year ended 30 June 2003**

**24 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

**24A Terms, conditions and accounting policies**

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
<b>Financial Assets</b>		Financial assets are recognised when control over future economic benefits is established and the amount of the benefit can be reliably measured	
Cash at bank and deposits at call	10A	Deposits are recognised at their nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Temporarily surplus funds, mainly from monthly drawdowns of appropriations, are placed on deposit at call with the Authority's banker. Interest is earned on the daily balance at the prevailing daily rate and is paid monthly.
Term deposits	10A	Term deposits are recognised at cost. Interest is accrued as it is earned.	Term deposits are with the Authority's bank, and earn an effective rate of interest of 4.5% (2002: 4.53%) payable quarterly.
Receivables for goods and services	10B	These receivables are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Provisions are made when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.	Credit terms are net 28 days (2001-02: 28 days)
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	10B	The amount receivable is recognised at the nominal amount due as at 30 June 2003. The amount arises from EMC collections due to be paid into Consolidated Revenue and then paid to the Authority as Special Appropriation.	The EMC is collected each quarter by the Authority as agent for the Commonwealth.
Interest receivable	10B	Interest is accrued as it is earned.	Interest is received monthly.
Investments	10C	These shares are carried at market value. Dividend income is recognised when declared by the investee.	The shares held are ordinary shares.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**24 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)**

**24A Terms, conditions and accounting policies**

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured.	
Advances from the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA)	12	Liabilities are recognised at the present value of the outstanding principal plus accrued interest unpaid as at reporting date.	Advances received for the purposes of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium were repaid by annual instalments, the final payment was made in 2002-03. There is no outstanding liability as at 30 June 2003.  An advance was received in 1998-99 to offset the costs of redundancies and was repaid by annual instalments over four years, the final payment was made in 2003-03. There is no outstanding liability as at 30 June 2003.
Capital Use Charge Payable	13B	The amount payable at 30 June 2003 is \$127,000.	The charge is a return on capital required under the Budget Framework in place since 1 July 1999. In prior years, the Charge has been calculated as a percentage of adjusted net assets (2002: 11%). The charge is being discontinued after 30 June 2003.
Trade creditors	14A	Creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods and services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**24 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)**

**24B Interest Rate Risk**

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest		Fixed Interest Rate		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Effective Interest	
		Rate		30 day terms						Rate	
		2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	%
<b>Financial Assets (Recognised)</b>											
Cash at Bank & Deposits at Call	10A	553,263	1,402,503	0	0	0	0	553,263	1,402,503	Variable	Variable
Cash on Hand	10A	0	0	0	0	49,660	4,923	49,660	4,923	n/a	n/a
Term Deposit	10A	0	0	2,165,166	4,035,105	0	0	2,165,166	4,035,105	4.5	4.53
Receivables for Goods & Services	10B	0	0	0	0	371,007	522,066	371,007	522,066	n/a	n/a
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	10B	0	0	0	0	1,957,091	2,020,422	1,957,091	2,020,422	n/a	n/a
Other Debtors	10B	39,093	3,663			192,408	387,882	231,501	391,545	Variable	Variable
Investments	10C	0	0	0	0	7,986	18,999	7,986	18,999	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Financial Assets (Recognised)</b>		592,356	1,406,166	2,165,166	4,035,105	2,578,152	2,954,292	5,335,674	8,395,563		
<b>Total Assets</b>								18,201,908	20,022,445		



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**24 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)**

**24B Interest Rate Risk**

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate 1 year or less		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Effective Interest Rate	
		2003 \$	2002 \$	2003 \$	2002 \$	2003 \$	2002 \$	2003 \$	2002 \$	2003 %	2002 %
<b>Financial Liabilities (Recognised)</b>											
Advance from DOFA	12	0	354,121	0	0	0	0	0	354,121	n/a	6.06
Trade creditors	14A	0	0	0	0	1,251,913	3,199,341	1,251,913	3,199,341	n/a	n/a
Other payables	14B	0	0	0	0	646,685	945,382	646,685	945,382	n/a	n/a
Capital use charge payable		0	0	0	0	127,000	127,000	127,000	127,000	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Financial Liabilities (Recognised)</b>		0	354,121	0	0	2,025,598	4,271,723	2,025,598	4,625,844		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>								5,129,313	7,488,550		

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**24 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)**

**24C Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities**

		2003		2002	
		Total carrying amount	Aggregate net fair value	Total carrying amount	Aggregate net fair value
Financial Assets	Note	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash at Bank and					
Deposits at Call	10A	553,263	553,263	1,402,503	1,402,503
Cash on Hand	10A	49,660	49,660	4,923	4,923
Term Deposit	10A	2,165,166	2,165,166	4,035,105	4,035,105
Receivables for goods and					
services	10B	371,007	371,007	522,066	522,066
Amounts receivable from					
the Commonwealth	10B	1,957,091	1,957,091	2,020,422	2,020,422
Other Debtors	10B	231,501	231,501	391,545	391,545
Investments	10C	7,986	7,986	18,999	18,999
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>		<b>5,335,674</b>	<b>5,335,674</b>	<b>8,395,563</b>	<b>8,395,563</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Advance from DOFA	12	0	0	354,121	354,121
Trade creditors	14A	1,251,913	1,251,913	3,199,341	3,199,341
Other payables	14B	646,685	646,685	945,382	945,382
Capital use charge	13B	127,000	127,000	127,000	127,000
<b>Total Financial</b>		<b>2,025,598</b>	<b>2,025,598</b>	<b>4,625,844</b>	<b>4,625,844</b>

*Financial Assets*

The net fair values of cash, deposits at call and term deposits approximate their carrying amounts.

The net fair value for listed equity investments is the quoted market price at reporting date, adjusted for the transaction costs necessary for realisation.

*Financial Liabilities*

The net fair values of trade creditors and other payables, all of which are short-term in nature are approximated by their carrying amounts.

**24D Credit Risk Exposures**

The Authority's maximum exposures to credit risk at reporting date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2003**

The Authority has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk. All figures for credit risk referred to do not take into account the value of any collateral or other security.

**25 AVERAGE STAFFING LEVELS**

The number of full-time equivalents employed for the year:	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>171</b>	<b>169</b>

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2003**

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003**

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>			
Appropriations from State Government	9	4,718,469	4,430,358
Funding from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management	9	4,718,468	4,453,358
Other		310,933	310,328
Gain on disposal of assets		24,756	67,688
<b>Total revenues from ordinary activities</b>		<b>9,772,626</b>	<b>9,261,732</b>
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities</b>			
Employee expenses		5,650,459	5,341,990
Supplies and services		3,728,064	3,376,803
Depreciation	2	539,603	516,430
Assets written off or scrapped		4,852	7,440
Loss on disposal of assets		2,429	19,069
<b>Total expenses from ordinary activities</b>		<b>9,925,407</b>	<b>9,261,732</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(152,781)</b>	<b>..</b>
Increase (decrease) in asset revaluation reserve	10	1,371,903	18,421
Net amount of each revenue, expense, valuation or other adjustment not disclosed above recognised as a direct adjustment to equity	10	(105)	..
<b>Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity</b>		<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners</b>		<b>1,219,017</b>	<b>18,421</b>



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2003

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash assets	3	688,894	749,933
Receivables	4	80,908	91,408
Other	5	41,343	35,197
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>811,145</b>	<b>876,538</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	5,073,565	4,083,807
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>5,073,565</b>	<b>4,083,807</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>5,884,710</b>	<b>4,960,345</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables	7	291,007	39,008
Provisions	8	29,255	..
Unearned Revenue	9	..	576,995
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>320,262</b>	<b>616,003</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>320,262</b>	<b>616,003</b>
<b>NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>		<b>5,564,448</b>	<b>4,344,342</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surpluses	10	3,535,340	3,687,137
Reserves			
- Asset revaluation reserve	10	2,029,108	657,205
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>5,564,448</b>	<b>4,344,342</b>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2003**

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003**

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Inflows:</b>			
Appropriations from State Government		4,429,971	4,567,847
Payments from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		4,429,971	4,590,847
Other		316,933	288,146
GST collected on sales		21,571	38,259
GST input tax credits received		274,969	290,877
<b>Outflows:</b>			
Employee costs		(5,630,144)	(5,333,046)
Supplies and services		(3,431,071)	(3,428,271)
GST paid on purchases		(270,574)	(284,541)
GST remitted to ATO		(29,607)	(34,090)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>112,019</b>	<b>696,028</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Inflows:</b>			
Sales of property, plant and equipment		28,163	80,033
<b>Outflows:</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(201,221)	(450,420)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(173,058)</b>	<b>(370,387)</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>(61,039)</b>	<b>325,641</b>
<b>Cash at beginning of financial year</b>		<b>749,933</b>	<b>424,292</b>
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>688,894</b>	<b>749,933</b>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2003**

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2003**

**NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**(a) Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, "Schedule 2 to orders made by the Commonwealth Finance Minister for the preparation of Financial Statements" and as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Except where stated the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention on an accrual basis.

**(b) Funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments**

Funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments is recognised as revenue in the same reporting period as expenses have been incurred.

**(c) Acquisition of Assets**

The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisition of assets. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

**(d) Property, Plant and Equipment**

All items of property, with a cost, or other value, in excess of \$5,000 and plant and equipment in excess of \$1,000 are recognised in the year of acquisition. Items with a lesser value are expensed.

**(e) Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment**

Depreciation on property, plant and equipment is calculated on a straight line basis so as to write off the cost (or other value) of each depreciable asset, less its estimated residual value, progressively over its estimated useful life.

For each class of depreciable asset the following depreciation/amortisation rates were used:

Buildings:	3% to 10%
Infrastructure:	5% to 20%
Vessels > \$250,000:	7%
Plant and Equipment:	7% to 33%

The lives of these assets were reviewed during the year and updated where applicable, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1021 *Depreciation*.

**(f) Revaluations of Non-Current Physical Assets**

Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1041 *Revaluation of Non-Current Assets* requires that all non-current physical assets be measured at either fair value or cost. Queensland Treasury's "Non-Current Asset Accounting Guidelines in the Queensland Public Sector" requires that land, buildings, infrastructure, heritage and cultural assets to be recorded at fair value with all other classes of assets to be recorded at cost. Accordingly, the carrying amount of vessels > \$250,000 at 1 July 2002 are deemed to be their cost valuation (AASB 1041 paragraph 8.7(a) refers). Other plant and equipment has previously been recognised at cost.

In accordance with the transitional provisions of AASB 1041 a comprehensive revaluation of building and infrastructure assets has commenced and will be ongoing until 30 June 2005. Assets that were comprehensively revalued in 2002-03 are recorded at their fair value. An appropriate index has been applied to those assets not yet comprehensively revalued.

**(g) Payables**

Payables are recognised at the amount expected to be paid for the goods and services received.

**(h) Employee Entitlements**

Officers of the Environmental Protection Agency provide a service to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and consequently the Agency is the responsible entity for all employee entitlements. In recognition of this service the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority contributes to the salary and related costs of the officers but does not incur any liabilities with regards to employee entitlements.

**(i) Gains and Losses**

Recorded gains and losses include gain and loss on disposal of capitalised and non capitalised assets.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2003**

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2003**

	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>NOTE 2 DEPRECIATION EXPENSE</b>		
Depreciation expense for the financial year was charged in respect of:		
Plant and equipment	72,390	180,453
Vessels	314,151	179,855
Buildings and Infrastructure	153,062	156,122
	<u>539,603</u>	<u>516,430</u>
<b>NOTE 3 CASH ASSETS</b>		
Unexpended funds	683,360	737,731
Imprest Accountable Advances	800	800
Accountable Advances - Travel	4,734	11,402
	<u>688,894</u>	<u>749,933</u>
<b>NOTE 4 RECEIVABLES</b>		
<i>Current</i>		
Trade Receivables	108,828	38,584
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(76,244)	..
GST Input Tax Credits	48,324	52,824
	<u>80,908</u>	<u>91,408</u>
<b>NOTE 5 OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Prepayments	41,343	35,197
	<u>41,343</u>	<u>35,197</u>
<b>NOTE 6 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Buildings and Infrastructure		
- At cost	40,010	17,540
- Accumulated depreciation	(1,125)	(1,242)
- At valuation	3,509,690	2,098,983
- Accumulated depreciation	(1,058,199)	(884,009)
Work In Progress	42,273	94,400
Vessels > \$250,000		
- At cost	4,785,035	4,773,875
- Accumulated depreciation	(3,357,951)	(3,192,295)
- At valuation	..	..
- Accumulated depreciation	..	..
Plant and equipment		
- At cost	2,471,280	2,462,322
- Accumulated depreciation	(1,357,448)	(1,285,767)
Total Property, Plant and Equipment - Net Book Value	<u>5,073,565</u>	<u>4,083,807</u>
Property, plant and equipment are recorded at fair value (notes 1c and 1f refer).		





**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2003**

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2003**

Reconciliation	Buildings & Infrastructure	Work in Progress	Vessels > \$250,000	Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at start of year	1,231,272	94,400	1,581,580	1,176,555	4,083,807
Acquisitions	9,127	61,953	11,160	91,623	173,863
Disposals				(24,520)	(24,520)
Transfer between classes	30,883	(114,080)		91,314	8,117
Revaluation Increments/Decrements	1,371,903				1,371,903
Depreciation	(152,810)		(165,656)	(221,139)	(539,605)
Carrying amount at end of year	2,490,375	42,273	1,427,084	1,113,833	5,073,565

	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>NOTE 7 PAYABLES</b>		
Trade creditors	290,438	21,463
GST payable	566	8,601
Payroll Tax payable	3	8,944
	<u>291,007</u>	<u>39,008</u>

<b>NOTE 8 PROVISIONS</b>		
<i>Current</i>		
Employee entitlements:		
- Salary & Wages payable	29,255	..
	<u>29,255</u>	<u>..</u>

<b>NOTE 9 UNEARNED REVENUE</b>		
Appropriations from State Government not yet earned	..	288,498
Funding from the Commonwealth Government not yet earned	..	288,497
	<u>..</u>	<u>576,995</u>

Unspent funds are transferred to unearned revenue at balance date. To reflect the 50/50 funding arrangement unearned revenue has been split equally between the Commonwealth and the State Contributions.

	Retained Surpluses		Asset Revaluation Reserve	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	3,687,137	3,687,137	657,205	638,784
Prior year adjustment due to incorrect GST receivable	(105)	..	..	..
Revaluation	..	..	1,371,903	18,421
Assets not previously recognised	1,089	..	..	..
Net surplus or deficit	(152,781)	..	..	..
Closing balance	<u>3,535,340</u>	<u>3,687,137</u>	<u>2,029,108</u>	<u>657,205</u>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2003**

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2003**

	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>NOTE 11 RECONCILIATION OF NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) TO NET CASH (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net Surplus / Deficit	(152,781)	..
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation	539,604	516,430
Net Gain on disposal of assets	(22,327)	(48,619)
Stock write-on's and other asset adjustments	..	(27,318)
Assets written off/scrapped	4,852	7,440
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables	(65,849)	11,472
(Increase)/Decrease in other assets	(5,646)	45,557
Increase/(Decrease) in provision for doubtful debts	76,244	..
Increase/(Decrease) in employee provisions	29,255	..
Increase/(Decrease) in payables	285,662	(83,912)
Increase/(Decrease) in unearned revenue	(576,995)	274,978
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	112,019	696,028

**NOTE 12 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

There are no known commitments or contingent liabilities of a significant nature at 30 June 2003 (2002: Nil).

**NOTE 13 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

**(a) Terms, Conditions and Accounting Policies**

The entity's accounting policies, including terms and conditions of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument, both recognised and unrecognised at balance date, are as follows:

Recognised Financial Instruments	Statement of Financial Position Notes	Accounting Policies	Terms and Conditions
1. Financial Assets Receivables	4	Receivables are carried at nominal amounts due.	No terms and conditions apply.
2. Financial Liabilities Payables	7	Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received whether or not billed to the entity.	Trade liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms or less.

**(b) Interest Rate Risk Exposure**

No exposure to interest rate risk exists at 30 June 2003.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2003**

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2003**

**(c) Credit Risk Exposure**

The entity's maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial asset is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

**(d) Net Fair Values**

The aggregate net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities at the balance date are as per the Statement of Financial Position.

The following methods and assumptions are used to determine the net fair values of financial assets and liabilities.

**Recognised Financial Instruments**

***Trade Receivables and Trade Payables***

The carrying amount approximates fair value.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2003**

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**CERTIFICATE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**In relation to the operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**

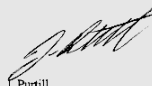
The foregoing financial statements have been prepared as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. We certify that -

- (a) the statements together with the other information and notes to and forming part thereof are in agreement with the accounts of the Environmental Protection Agency, and
- (b) the receipt and expenditure of monies and the control and management of assets were in accordance with the approved programs and in accordance with the aforementioned agreements and previous agreements executed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments with regard to day to day management; and
- (c) in our opinion -
  - (i) the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
  - (ii) statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the transactions and cash flows of the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, and of the financial position as at 30 June 2003.



N. O'Sullivan  
Acting Director, Financial Services

Date: 5th August 2003



J. Purtill  
Director-General

Date: 19/8/03

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

*To the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*

**Scope**

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, a program within the Environmental Protection Agency, for the year ended 30 June 2003 in terms of the agreements for the day to day management of the Park dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Notes to and forming part of the accounts and certificates given by the Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency and officer responsible for financial administration of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for the preparation and the form of presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have audited the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them.

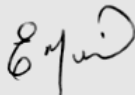
The audit has been conducted in accordance with *QAO Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Audit procedures included the examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with the prescribed requirements in Australia, which include Australian Accounting Standards so as to present a view, which is consistent with my understanding of the entity's financial position and the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this certificate has been formed on the above basis.

**Audit Opinion**

In terms of the Agreements relating to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, I certify that I have received all the information and explanations I have required in respect of the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and, in my opinion -

- The prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
- The statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view in accordance with the prescribed accounting standards and other prescribed requirements of the transactions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the financial year ended 30 June 2003 and of the financial position as at the end of that year.

  
E A MUIR, FCPA  
Assistant Auditor-General  
(Delegate of the Auditor-General)



Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2003**

**27 REPORTING BY OUTCOMES**

27A The Authority is included in Outcome 1 of the Environment and Heritage Portfolio. The specific sub-outcome for the Authority is the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

**27B Net Costs of Outcome Delivery**

	<b>Outcome 1</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Administered expenses	0	0
Departmental expenses	32,129	32,530
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>32,129</b>	<b>32,530</b>
<i>Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector</i>		
Administered	0	0
Departmental	4,518	3,441
<b>Total costs recovered</b>	<b>4,518</b>	<b>3,441</b>
<i>Other external revenues</i>		
Departmental		
Sale of goods and services - to related entities	0	0
Interest	257	183
Donation and bequests	0	4
Revenue from sale of assets	0	14
Industry contributions	270	259
Reversal of previous asset writedowns	0	0
Other	4,492	4,789
Total Departmental	5,020	5,249
<b>Total other external revenues</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>5,249</b>
<b>Net Cost/(contribution) of outcome</b>	<b>22,591</b>	<b>23,839</b>

The net costs shown include intra-government costs that would be eliminated in calculating the actual Budget outcome. The Capital Use Charge is not included in any of the Net cost/(contribution) of outcomes as it is not an operating expense. Refer to Outcome 1 Resourcing Table in this Annual Report

The GBRMPA allocates shared items at output level based on staffing levels for 2002-03.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2003

**27 REPORTING BY OUTCOMES**

**27C Departmental Revenues and Expenses by Output Groups and Outputs**

	Outcome 1																		Non-attributable	Total
	Output Group 1.1		Output Group 1.2		Output Group 1.3		Output Group 1.4		Output Group 1.5		Output Group 1.6		Output Group 1.7							
	Conservation, Biodiversity & World Heritage	Water Quality & Coastal Development	Fisheries	Tourism & Recreation	Park Management	Information for Park Management	Communication & Education													
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002		
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000		
Operating expenses	1,207	919	1,102	905	757	607	603	510	3,253	3,514	1,798	1,710	2,435	2,508	11,555	11,020				
Employees	967	430	721	372	362	399	486	473	2,560	4,350	2,753	2,656	2,884	2,304	16,714	11,216				
Suppliers			11				2				9	21	4	5	26	26				
Grants																				
Depreciation and amortization	63		50		34		32		133		88		517	348	400	748				
Write-down of assets	2		1		1		1		4		3		2		4	14				
Value of assets disposed																				
Borrowing cost expense																245				
Extraordinary loss	1		1		1				2		1		15	29	13	21				
Contribution to Old Govt.																				
-DDM									8,860	9,138					8,860	9,156				
Other																				
Total operating expenses	2,240	1,349	1,896	1,477	1,155	1,036	1,124	983	14,814	17,322	4,652	4,417	6,257	5,329	417	32,139	32,530			
Funded by:																				
Revenues from Government	1,157	1,472	1,784	1,983	1,142	1,210	1,111	1,102	8,689	10,670	4,586	4,240	5,496	5,325	594	24,006	26,419			
Sales of goods and services	1,035		94	30	15	1	14	7	1,741	2,059	69	87	1,903	1,205	523	4,891	4,035			
Interest					18		18		73		45		39		183	257	183			
Donations and bequests	34		27												4					
Industry contributions																				
Revenue from:																				
Sale of Assets																				
Payments from Old Govt.																				
-DDM									4,389	6,484					7	14				
Total operating revenues	2,276	1,475	1,915	2,013	1,175	1,211	1,145	1,109	14,592	17,036	4,203	4,327	7,438	6,631	1,307	33,543	35,105			

The Authority's outcomes and outputs are described at Note 27A.

The net costs shown include intra-government costs that would be eliminated in calculating the actual Budget outcome.

The Capital Use Charge is not included in any of the Net cost/(contribution) of outcomes as it is not an operating expense.

## SECTION E

### Appendices





## Appendix 1: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - Members

### *Qualifications of Marine Park Authority Members*

**The Hon Virginia Chadwick** was appointed as Chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in July 1999. Prior to her appointment she trained as a teacher and worked in Australia and the United Kingdom in both the school and TAFE systems. She entered the New South Wales Legislative Council in 1978 and served as Opposition Whip and Shadow Minister of various portfolios. Her Ministerial responsibilities have included Community Services, Education, TAFE, Training and Tourism. She was also the Minister assisting the Premier on Ethnic Affairs, Women and the Aged and chaired the government Trading Enterprises Reform Group. She has also served as President of the Legislative Council. She was the first woman elected as the President of the New South Wales Legislative Council. She has received an Honorary Doctorate from the Southern Cross University. Virginia Chadwick currently is a member of Queensland's Fishing Industry Development Council, a Board member of the Co-operative Research Centre Reef, and a Board member of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

**Dr Evelyn Scott** has been involved in Aboriginal Affairs over the past 30 years and has played an instrumental role in the establishment of Aboriginal Legal Services, Housing Societies and Medical Services in Queensland. Dr Scott was Chairperson of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation until 31 December 2000. In 2003 she was awarded an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Dr Scott's awards include: Honorary Doctorate [honoris causa] [27 April 2000] from the Australian Catholic University for work in the areas of Reconciliation, the advancement of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the advancement of Women; John Miller Distinguished Achievement Award [21 November 2000]; Honorary Doctor of Letters [22 March 2001] from James Cook University in recognition of outstanding service to the Queensland community, exceptional service to the University and exceptional contribution to human well-being; and Doctor of University [3 April 2003] from Griffith University.

**Dr Leo Keliher** is Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. He holds a First Class Honours degree in Economics and a Master of Arts from the University of Queensland. Dr Keliher holds a Doctorate from the London School of Economics and Political Science [University of London].

**Ms Fay Barker** FAICD is a fellow of the Institute of Company Directors, currently a director of the Breakwater Island Trust Limited, director of RACQ

Limited and past President of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce Inc. Formerly a director of Townsville Enterprise Limited and the Townsville Port Authority and a Council Member of James Cook University. In 1989 she was awarded Business Executive of the Year by the Queensland Government and in 1994 Chief Businesswoman of the Year by Queensland Newspapers. Ms Barker serves on numerous community service organisations.

During 2002-03, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority held three meetings:

	Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
	186	30 October 2002	Cardwell	Hon Virginia Chadwick, Ms Fay Barker, Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott AO
	187	5 March 2003	Townsville	Hon Virginia Chadwick, Ms Fay Barker, Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott AO
	188	7 May 2003	Brisbane and Telephone Linkup	Hon Virginia Chadwick, Ms Fay Barker [via telephone linkup], Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott AO [via telephone linkup]

**Table 7: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in 2002-03. Source: GBRMPA**

## Appendix 2: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - Committees

### **GREAT BARRIER REEF - Ministerial Council**

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council was established in 1979 to coordinate Commonwealth and Queensland Government policy on reef matters at Ministerial level. The Council comprises four Ministers, two from each Government. The Hon Dr David Kemp MP, Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage, is Convenor of the Council.

During 2002-03, the other members of the GBR Ministerial Council were: the Hon Joe Hockey MP, Commonwealth Minister for Small Business and Tourism; the Hon Dean Wells MP, Queensland Minister for Environment; and the Hon Merri Rose MP, Queensland Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading.

The Council met once during 2002-03, on 12 June 2003 in Brisbane. The meeting was attended by Ministers Kemp, Wells and Rose, with apologies from Minister Hockey. The Hon Stephen Robertson MP, Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines, also attended the meeting to participate in discussions relating to his responsibilities for the GBR region water catchments.

### **GREAT BARRIER REEF - Consultative Committee**

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee was established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* as an independent advisory body for both the GBRMPA and the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the environment.

The Consultative Committee represents a wide cross-section of interests in the Great Barrier Reef [from both the public and private sectors] including tourism, fishing, science, conservation, local government and Aboriginal communities. It consists of members appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and a member of the GBRMPA appointed by the GBRMPA for an indefinite term [See Table 9].

During 2002-03 the Consultative Committee held two meetings:

	Meeting	Date	Location
	GBRCC67	26 September 2002	Townsville
	GBRCC68	4 March 2003	Townsville

**Table 8: Consultative Committee meetings 2002-03. Source: GBRMPA.**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
	Dr Russell Reichelt	Chair
	Hon Virginia Chadwick	GBRMPA
	Mr Tony Charters	Tourism
	Mr Noel Dawson	Chair, Water Quality Reef Advisory Committee
	Mr Peter Frawley	Chair, Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee
	Dr Ian McPhail	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
	Mr Bob Muir	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests
	Mr Peter Neville	Department of Primary Industries
	Mrs Jenny Pryor	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests
	Ms Diane Tarte	Chair, Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee
	Mr Terry Wall	Department Premier and Cabinet
	Mr Bill Whiteman	Chair, Hinchinbrook Local Marine Advisory Committee
	Mr Simon Woodley	Chair, Conservation Reef Advisory Committee

**Table 9: Members of Consultative Committee 2002-03. Source: GBRMPA**

## **GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY – Audit Committee**

The following people were members of the Audit Committee during 2002-03:

- Mr Matt Pope, Chairperson, a practising Townsville barrister [Mr Matt Pope resigned from the Audit Committee at the 21st meeting on 4 February 2003];
- Mr Barry Sheedy, member, an accountant practising in Mackay [Mr Sheedy was appointed as Chairperson on 5 March 2003];
- Dr Leo Keliher, member, permanent part-time member of the GBRMPA;
- Mr John Tanzer, member, an Executive Director on the Authority's staff;
- Mr Gregor Manson, member, an Executive Director on the Authority's staff [Mr Manson's two-year term of membership finished in September 2002];
- Mr Andrew Skeat, member, an Executive Director on the Authority's staff [Mr Skeat was appointed on 5 March 2003]; *and*
- Ms Fay Barker FAICD, member, permanent part-time member of the GBRMPA [Ms Barker was appointed on 5 March 2003].

During 2002-03 the Audit Committee held three meetings.

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
AC20	26 August 2002	Townsville	Matt Pope, Barry Sheedy, John Tanzer
AC21	4 February 2003	Townsville	Matt Pope, Barry Sheedy, John Tanzer
AC22	15 April 2003	Townsville	Barry Sheedy, Fay Barker, John Tanzer, Andrew Skeat

**Table 10: Meetings of the GBRMPA Audit Committee in 2002-03. Source: GBRMPA.**

Business activities of the audit committee concerned:

- Annual financial statements;
- Environmental Management Charge;
- Day-to-Day Management;
- Reef HQ Operations; and
- Various internal audit reports.

#### *Powers and functions*

The functions and responsibilities of the Audit Committee are to:

1. Help the Authority and its members to comply with obligations under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.
2. Provide a forum for communication between members, the senior managers of the Authority and the internal and external auditors of the Authority.
3. Review the risk management strategy and fraud control plans of the Authority to ensure they remain current and focus on the areas of greatest risk.
4. Review and endorse the internal audit strategic and annual work plans.
5. Assess the external audit strategy to ensure it addresses all significant business and other risks.
6. As far as practicable, coordinate internal and external audit programs.
7. Review all audit reports involving matters of concern, follow-up implementation of recommendations and provide advice to the board of the Authority on action to be taken for matters raised by internal, or external audit.
8. Review the Authority's accounting policies and disclosures in the annual financial statements and other disclosures in the Annual Report.
9. Review any other externally published financial information prior to release.
10. Monitor developments and changes in legislation and government

policy in terms of their possible impact on the responsibility and liability of the Authority, its members and officers.

11. In addition to the specific advice functions at 7 above, advise the board of the Authority in regard to any matter relating to its other functions, as it considers necessary or is directed to by the Authority.
12. Review any activity of the Authority to achieve the Committee's objectives.

### **GREAT BARRIER REEF - Reef Advisory Committees**

#### *Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage*

The Reef Advisory Committee for Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage met on 7-8 August 2002, 27-28 November 2002 and 20-21 March 2003. The Committee, comprising 14 members including an independent Chair, provided valuable guidance on a variety of matters, in particular the Representative Areas Program, Species Conservation issues and the traditional use of marine resources.

#### *Fisheries*

The Reef Advisory Committee for Fisheries met on 11-12 July 2002, 31 October-1 November 2002, 25-26 March 2003 and 16-17 June 2003. The Committee, comprising 15 members including an independent Chair, provided advice on several issues, including the coral reef finfish fishery, commercial coral collecting, the fisheries implications of the Representative Areas Program, a strategic policy for fisheries within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, quota management, aquaculture and the traditional use of fisheries resources.

#### *Tourism and Recreation*

The Reef Advisory Committee for Tourism and Recreation met on 17-18 September 2002, 12-13 December 2002, 27-28 March 2003 and 12-13 June 2003. It comprises 20 members, including an independent Chair. The Committee provided valuable guidance on a variety of matters, in particular permit allocation, latency and tenure, and industry certification arrangements.

#### *Water Quality and Coastal Development*

The Reef Advisory Committee for Water Quality and Coastal Development met on 24-25 October 2002, 7 March 2003 and 22 May 2003. The Committee, comprising 22 members including an independent Chair, provided a great deal of advice on the main issues of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and the strategic approach to water quality issues by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Advice was also given on aquaculture, the Representative Areas Program and sewage management.

## **GREAT BARRIER REEF - Local Marine Advisory Committees**

Local Marine Advisory Committees [LMACs] have been established by the GBRMPA as a forum for the local community and representative stakeholder groups to discuss marine resource management issues and advise the GBRMPA accordingly. They provide a communication link between stakeholder groups, the wider community and management agencies.

LMACs were established in 1999 at nine regional coastal communities along the Queensland coast: Cooktown, Port Douglas, Cairns, Mission Beach, Hinchinbrook, Townsville, Whitsundays, Mackay and Gladstone. A tenth LMAC was established on the Capricorn Coast at Yeppoon in 2002.

LMACs consist of volunteer members of the community. Members usually have an interest in marine resource issues and may be independent or represent a constituent group. Each LMAC is chaired by a member who is charged with running meetings and ensuring a broad representation of the community participants in the committee. The GBRMPA provides funding for LMACs to meet every two months.

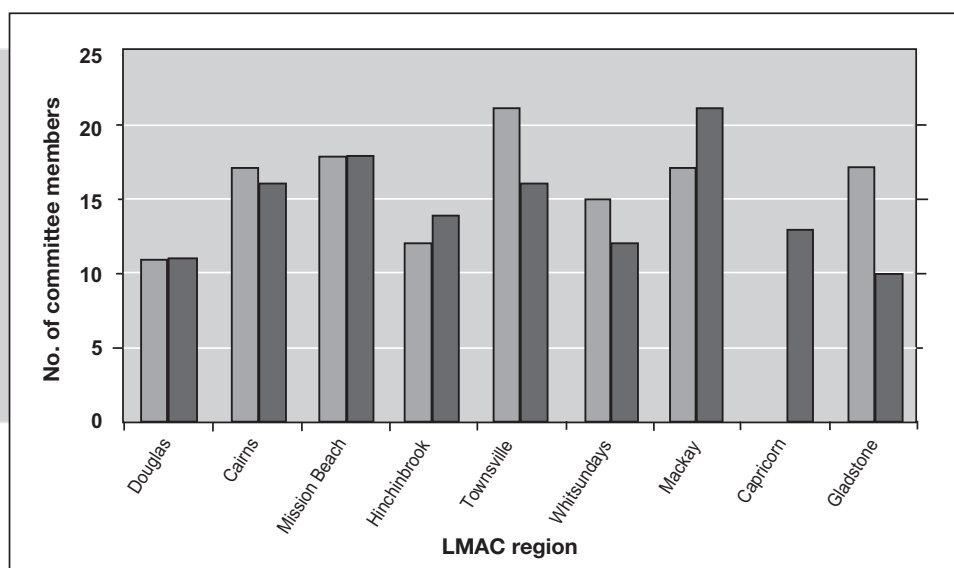
### *Performance of LMACs*

LMACs each met at least six times for the year. Some committees had joint meetings with neighbouring LMACs. Nominations were called for in July 2002 for the second three-year term of LMACs. A total of 126 nominations were received and 40% of these had not previously been members of an LMAC.

LMACs have provided very valuable input on major issues such as Representative Areas Program [RAP] and Water Quality. Some of the key local issues addressed include the following:

Mission Beach LMAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mission Beach Trawl Closure – funding proposal for Seagrass Watch.</li></ul>
Hinchinbrook LMAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ‘Marine Wonders of Hinchinbrook’ [transit lane brochure].</li><li>• Significant input into draft Hinchinbrook Plan of Management.</li></ul>
Cape York Marine Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishment of water quality monitoring program in Cooktown.</li><li>• Input to Line Fish Plan.</li></ul>
Port Douglas LMAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public information session on water quality in Port Douglas region.</li></ul>
Whitsunday’s LMAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weekend workshop with Government, ICM and agencies on addressing water quality issues in the region.</li><li>• Contributed to a study of no-anchoring areas.</li></ul>
Gladstone LMAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual clean up the Creeks campaign with local divers.</li><li>• Input to Curtis Coast State Management Plan.</li><li>• RAP Submissions from four LMACs in CP1</li></ul>

**Table 11: Local Marine Advisory Committees during 2002-03. Source: GBRMPA.**



**Figure 29: Changes in LMAC membership during 2002-03.** Source: GBRMPA

At the first meeting of the new committees, Chairs and Secretaries were elected to office for a three-year term. In total, there are currently 131 members, averaging 14.5 members per LMAC. [This figure does not include the Cooktown committee, as they do not have official members.]

The LMACs developed work programs in January-February 2003 for the next 1-3 year period. An annual Chairs meeting was held in Townsville in May 2003. Ten LMAC Chairs and eight other members, and the GBRMPA Senior Management Team attended this meeting. Feedback from this meeting was very positive in terms of the rapport between LMACs and the GBRMPA and the obvious maturity and evolution of the LMACs over the past three years.

### **GREAT BARRIER REEF - *Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee***

The Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee [EREAC] met three times during the 2002-03 financial year. In August 2002 the Committee met for a briefing from GBRMPA staff on the RAP, but no research permit applications were discussed. In October 2002 and May 2003, the Committee met to discuss permit applications; one application on each occasion. At each meeting, the EREAC recommended the granting of the permits, although for one permit they recommended specific permit conditions to minimise the risk of environmental harm. These recommendations were accepted and implemented by the GBRMPA.



## Appendix 3: Freedom of Information Statement

### *Documents available for purchase*

The following documents are available for purchase [including bulk-purchase] through selected outlets:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and Regulations;
- Companion Map to Great Barrier Reef;
- Maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Plans of Management; and
- Tourism Operators Handbook.

### *Documents available free of charge*

The following documents are available, free of charge, for single copies only from the GBRMPA's Townsville office:

- Strategic Plan;
- Environmental Management Charge information booklets;
- Zoning Plans and Zoning Plan Introductory Guides;
- Selected maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Media releases and communiqués;
- Various information brochures, posters, bulletins and leaflets;
- Research reports and workshop proceedings; and
- Nomination of the Great Barrier Reef by the Commonwealth of Australia for inclusion in the World Heritage List.

### *Facilities for access*

The Townsville office holds most documents relating to GBRMPA decisions and operations as well as that of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee. It is possible to arrange access to documents, available under provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, through either the Canberra or Townsville office [See addresses opposite]. Staff are available to provide assistance in relation to any aspect of freedom of information requests.

Members of the public may make inquiries on freedom of information matters and inspect documents to which access has been granted at either office. Business hours are 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Formal requests for access to documents must be directed to the offices listed below. Information about facilities for access by disabled people can be obtained by contacting the Freedom of Information Officer at the Townsville office.

The following facilities for access are maintained at the Townsville office:

- computer printer;
- microfiche reader;

- film and slide projectors;
- video and audio tape recorders;
- photocopy machine; and
- reading areas.

*Freedom of information procedures and initial contact points*

Inquiries may be made in writing, by telephone or in person at any of the official freedom of information access points listed below. It is recommended that inquirers provide a telephone number.

**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

2-68 Flinders Street  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
Telephone [07] 4750 0700  
Facsimile [07] 4772 6093

PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

Ground Floor  
John Gorton Building  
King Edward Terrace  
PARKES ACT 2600  
Telephone [02] 6274 1922  
Facsimile [02] 6274 1509

GPO Box 791  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

If any difficulty arises in identifying a document or in providing access in the form requested, an officer of GBRMPA will contact the applicant with a view to resolving the difficulty.

In consultation with applicants, documents will be made available by mail to the address specified by the applicant or at the official FOI access points. The authorised decision-makers under the Act for the GBRMPA, with official addresses for the lodging of requests, are:

**The Executive Director**

Great Barrier Reef Marine  
Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

**The Chair**

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park  
Authority  
PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

**Director of Corporate Services**

Great Barrier Reef Marine  
Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

## Appendix 4: Consultancy Services

### Consultants and competitive tendering and contracting

GBRMPA engaged external consultants to gain access to specialist technical, professional, research and management expertise in relation to specific tasks. Consultants are used to augment the GBRMPA resources or to carry out work independently.

Eighty-nine consultancy contracts were made during 2002-03. Total expenditure on consultancy services was \$2.038 million. A large proportion of research is now outsourced to the CRC Reef Research Centre principally through financial contribution of \$13.2 million over seven years commencing in 1999-2000. Field management of the Marine Park is implemented through day-to-day management programs, the majority of which are carried out by Queensland Government agencies.

Advantage Signs	5 795.50
Andrew Rankin Photography	2 478.40
Animal & Odd-Bod Creators Pty Ltd	2 854.50
Armsign	1 435.50
Beez Neez Education	1 999.25
Coral Sea Imagery	8 534.70
Digital Dimensions	26 978.00
Display Design	9 326.41
Extremely Graphic	6 000.00
Graphics Plus	5 169.45
Grafik Switch	12 364.00
McGregor Consulting Service	9 937.40
Rowland Communication Group	86 079.40
Sign Time	1 716.69
Toucan Display Systems	6 303.00
Townsville Signs	2 358.00
Work of Art Graphic Design	8 883.50
WWd	57 208.80

**Table 12: Creative agencies used 2002-03** Source: GBRMPA

AEC Group Limited	14 019.50
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**Table 13: Market research and polling organisations used, 2002-03** Source: GBRMPA

Local Attractions	1149.50
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**Table 14: Direct mail organisations used, 2002-03** Source: GBRMPA

APN Newspapers Pty Ltd	6 260.00
Australian Posters	12 952.50
The Cairns Post	3 150.00
The Daily Mercury	3 000.00
DMG Regional Radio Pty Ltd	2 750.00
FNQ Broadcasters Townsville Pty Ltd	2 838.00
Gwenmac Advertising Pty Ltd	8 913.49
HMA Blaze Pty Ltd	90 726.99
Island Impressions	6 670.40
Museum of Tropical Queensland	1 335.00
North Australian Publishing Company	6 186.26
The North Queensland Newspaper Co Ltd	21 069.24
Oz Experience Pty Ltd	2 788.00
Redsuit Advertising	131 406.63
Reflections Media Pty Ltd	8 404.00
Sensis Pty Ltd	1 171.50
Southern Cross Broadcasting (Australia)	4 137.10
Starcom Worldwide	84 556.50
Townsville Enterprise	21 577.50
WIN Television Qld Pty Ltd	62 535.00

**Table 15: Media advertising organisations used, 2002-03** Source: GBRMPA

## Appendix 5: Staffing Overview

Classification	ONGOING EMPLOYEES					NON-ONGOING EMPLOYEES				
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total
	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T		F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	
APS1	1	0.67	2	0	3.67	2	0	1	0	3
APS2	15	0.6	8	0	23.6	1	0.6	1	0.6	3.2
APS3	19	0.64	8	0	27.64	2	0.6	1	0	3.6
APS4	9	0	3	0	12	0	0	2	0	2
APS5	11	1.11	7	0	19.11	0	0.8	2	0	2.8
APS6	13	0	20	0	33	1	0	0	0.8	1.8
EXEC1	6	0.69	13	0	19.69	0	0	0	0	0
EXEC2	2	0	9	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SES 2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2
CEO	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	76	3.71	72	0	150.71	7	2	10	1.4	20.4
Total number of employees = 171.11										

**Table 16: Employees of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2003.**  
 [APS—Australian Public Service Officer; Exec—Executive Level; SES—Senior Executive Service;  
 CEO—Chief Executive Officer]

Classification	Women	NESB1	NESB2	NESB	ATSI	PWD
APS1[7]	6 [86%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	1 [14%]	1 [14%]
APS2[28]	18 [64%]	1 [3%]	1 [3%]	0 [0%]	2 [7%]	1 [3%]
APS3[32]	22 [69%]	1 [3%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	2 [6%]
APS4[14]	9 [64%]	2 [14%]	3 [21%]	1 [7%]	0 [0%]	2 [14%]
APS5[23]	14 [61%]	5 [22%]	4 [17%]	3 [13%]	4 [17%]	0 [0%]
APS6[35]	15 [43%]	6 [17%]	6 [17%]	2 [6%]	2 [6%]	1 [3%]
EXEC1[20]	7 [35%]	2 [10%]	2 [10%]	1 [5%]	1 [5%]	0 [0%]
EXEC2[11]	2 [18%]	1 [9%]	0 [0%]	1 [9%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]
SES1[1]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]
SES2[3]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]
CEO[1]	1 [100%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]

**Table 17: Representation of EEO groups within salary levels as at 30 June 2003**

[NESB1—Non-English Speaking Background, second generation [Mother]; NESB2—Non-English Speaking Background [Father]; NESB—Non-English Speaking Background, first generation; ATSI—Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; PWD—People with a disability]

**Occupational health and safety**

The focus of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s OH & S effort over the last 12 months has been in strengthening the health and safety policy framework to supplement the existing legislative framework and meet new challenges emanating from changed global conditions. This has resulted in a SARS policy, revised Emergency guidelines to incorporate security and terrorism and biological hazards as well as an increased focus on risk assessment for employees travelling and working overseas. Additional policy development has occurred in the areas of First Aid, Confined Spaces and Risk Assessment and Hazard Management.

The GBRMPA has commenced a program of comprehensive OH & S risk assessments on all of its major work areas. Two risk assessment manuals have been developed for supervisors as well as a comprehensive audit program.

The duty statements, support infrastructure and occupants of all health and safety volunteer positions have been reviewed including Emergency Response officers, First Aid Officers and Health and Safety Representatives.

Training development has focused on supervisors and managers particularly in the area of risk assessment. The GBRMPA continues with a comprehensive range of courses to support safe diving including First Aid & Senior First Aid, Occupational Health & Safety at Sea, Advanced Oxygen resuscitation. Occupational Therapists visited many employees providing personal and group advice on workstation ergonomics and the prevention of manual handling, OOS and related injuries.

The OH & S Committee has met regularly to review and implement safety management systems with a particular focus on:

Emergency procedures	Review of the OH & S Agreement and policy
Review of all OH & S volunteers	Policy development
Review of OH & S Committee	Hazard management
Risk Assessment	Audit Program

**Table 18: Activities of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee during 2002-03.**  
Source: GBRMPA

*Injuries and incidents*

Two compensation claims were accepted for the period 2002-03 for injuries of a short-term nature. Nine incidents were reported: mostly slips, trips or falls and minor body-stressing.

## Appendix 6: GBRMPA Publications 2002-03

### Staff Papers Published or Presented during 2002-03

Copies of the following papers are available from either the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority web site [<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/>] or from Library and Image Services.

Agardy, T., Bridgewater, P., Crosby, P., Day, J., Dayton, P., Kenchington, R., Laffoley, D., McConney, P., Murray, P., Parks, J. and Peau, L. 2003, 'Dangerous targets? Unresolved issues and ideological clashes around marine protected areas', *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 13[4]: 353-367.

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Cadwallader, P. 2002, 'The Mission Beach trawl closure: a response to community expectations in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area' [Abstract], in *World Congress on Aquatic Protected Areas: what works best and how do we know? Handbook and abstracts, 14-17 August 2002, Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns, Queensland, Australia*, Australian Society for Fish Biology, Victoria, p. 55.

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## Appendix 7: Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* [‘the EPBC Act’] requires Commonwealth organisations to include in their annual reports details of the organisation’s contribution to ecologically sustainable development as well as the environmental performance of the organisation. Section 516A also promotes development of a framework which integrates environmental, economic and social considerations and helps improve the environmental and ecologically sustainable development performance of Commonwealth organisations.

The following is a summary of activities by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in 2002–03 in accordance with section 516A of the EPBC Act.

### **1. How the activities of the organisation, and the administration of legislation by the organisation, accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development [section 516A(6)(a)]**

*Activities which generally recognise and promote ecologically sustainable development:*

Sections 5, 7 and 7A of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* [‘the GBRMPA Act’] provide the statutory objectives and functions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Within this statutory framework, the Authority’s goal is the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

During 2002-03, GBRMPA addressed and promoted critical ecologically sustainable development [ESD] issues in respect of the Great Barrier Reef. These activities included:

- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity of the GBR by the preparation and issue of a draft Zoning Plan, in consultation with stakeholders, communities and agencies, directed to the implementation of the GBRMPA Representative Areas Program [See page 166].
- The cementing of an intergovernmental agreement that aims to halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the GBR within ten years. On 13 August 2002 the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, and the Premier of Queensland, the Hon Peter Beattie MP, signed a memorandum of understanding giving effect to that agreement. The GBRMPA has collaborated closely with other Commonwealth agencies and the Queensland government during 2002-03 to develop a Draft Reef Water Quality Protection Plan to provide for the implementation of that agreement;
- In conjunction with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage, and the Queensland Fisheries Service, the Authority has

contributed to the introduction of a wide range of fisheries management initiatives during 2002-03, [as fully detailed in Output 1.3 – Fisheries]. The Authority also completed a comprehensive audit of the GBR trawl fishery during 2002-03;

- In partnership with Commonwealth and Queensland government enforcement agencies, the Authority increased the level of its compliance operations substantially during 2002-03, resulting in record detection and fines against criminal operators in the GBR.

*Activities that integrate environmental, social, economic and equitable consideration:*

Section 39ZA of the GBRMPA Act provides that the Authority may, when developing or implementing management plans, make arrangements with community groups that have special interests in areas of the Marine Park. In addition, during 2003, the Authority

- developed strong partnerships with the Authority's community of stakeholders [including industry bodies, research bodies, traditional owners, conservation agencies, other NGO's, government agencies, and the wider community itself] through direct consultation, and through specialist and representative community bodies as the GBR Consultative Committee, Reef Advisory Committees, and Local Marine Advisory Committees;
- integrated stakeholder interests in the Authority's decision-making processes [including statutory consideration of permit applications and in the development of zoning plans and plans of management] under the GBRMPA Act;
- participated in national and international processes for the protection and management of Australia's marine environment, including sponsoring the interagency compliance workshop *Towards an Advanced Integrated Approach to Compliance in the Great Barrier Reef*, attendance at the *International Tropical Marine Environment Management Symposium [ITMEMS]* in the Philippines, and attendance at the Cairns High Seas Workshop.

*Activities that employ, or promote the use of the precautionary principle:*

Section 39Z of the GBRMPA Act is an express statutory provision which requires the Authority to inform itself by reference to the precautionary principle in protecting world heritage values and in making decisions in relation to management plans.

During 2002, the GBRMPA issued the draft Hinchinbrook Plan of Management under Section 39 of the GBRMPA Act. This statutory plan of management for the world renowned Hinchinbrook area, introduces a range of management



actions necessary to protect the special values of this area, while allowing recreational and tourism use to develop in an ecologically sustainable manner.

*Activities that aim to promote conservation of the environment for the benefit of future generations:*

Section 7A of the GBRMPA Act provides for the Authority to provide assistance to the institution or person in matters relating to environmental management, including the carrying out of research or investigations, the provision of educational, advisory or informational services, and the making available of facilities. During 2002-03:

- The Authority published The State of the Great Barrier Reef Report Online, which was launched by the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp MP.
- Following on from the 2002 coral bleaching events, the Authority developed further collaborative partnership arrangements with the Australian Institute of Marine Science [AIMS] and the United States Government National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) to improve scientific understanding of the impact of global climate change on the GBR ecosystem.
- The Authority maintained its collaborative partnership arrangement with the CRC Reef Research Centre, which was tasked with the bulk of the Authority's major research programs.
- The Authority provided funding for tertiary student research relevant to the management of the GBR through the GBRMPA Science for Management Research Grants scheme.
- The Authority's commitment to schools education was significantly advanced with the launch of the Reef ED website by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp [<http://www.reefed.au/>] on 31 January 2003. The site contains a wealth of curriculum based teaching material and student activities.
- The Authority launched its Reef Guardian Schools Program during 2002. This program is an action-based school participation program related to current issues affecting the GBR, and provides ways for Australian schools to promote best environmental practices within communities, while at the same time projecting a positive image of the school itself.
- A substantial refurbishment of the Authority's principal interpretative activity, the Reef HQ complex in Townsville, was completed during 2002-03. The Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp MP, opened the upgraded complex in July 2002. Reef HQ is the largest live coral reef aquarium in the world.



*Activities that ensure that biodiversity and ecological integrity are fundamental to decision-making:*

The Authority's principal activity during 2002-03 was the implementation of the **Representative Areas Program**. The objective of the Representative Areas Program [RAP] is to help protect biodiversity within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area [GBRWHA]. This will be done by protecting 'representative' examples of all the different habitats and communities in the GBRWHA and building upon the existing network of Green Zones [no-take areas].

Using the best available science, the GBRWHA has been classified into 70 bioregions. Bioregions are areas of differing marine biodiversity that have been mapped after consideration of the physical and biological diversity of the entire GBRWHA. Each bioregion contains plant and animal communities, together with physical features, that are significantly different from the surrounding areas and the rest of the GBRWHA. There is, however, a high level of 'connectivity' within the marine environment and each of these habitats plays an important role in the entire Reef ecosystem.

In collaboration with its partners, GBRMPA is closely involved in identifying threats to threatened marine species, and coordinating and facilitating conservation programs for protection and species recovery. The conservation of dugongs, turtles, dolphins and whales continues to be a priority, and the Authority has been at the forefront of promoting a strong interagency approach to the management of threatened marine species. In June 2002, Commonwealth and Queensland Ministers decided on the necessity for a coordinated national approach to the use of traditional marine resources. Recognising the critical cultural importance of dugongs and turtles to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the GBRMPA Indigenous Policy Unit has continued to work closely with Traditional Owner Groups throughout the region on threatened species management.

*Activities that aim to improve valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms:*

The GBRMPA has emphasised the importance of fostering best practice tourism throughout the Marine Park, and is seeking to recognise and reward high-standard operators through external certification schemes. During 2002-03, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Board approved an industry incentive-based policy for the accreditation of high quality, environmentally sustainable tourist programs.

Groups	Outcomes
Conservation, Biodiversity & World Heritage	Natural and cultural values protected and World Heritage obligations are met
Water Quality	Minimal degradation of the Great Barrier Reef from water pollution and coastal development
Fisheries	Ecologically sustainable fisheries that do not compromise the value of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area
Tourism and Recreation	Enhanced tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park
Park Management	Field management of the Marine Park
	Planning and Impact Management of the Marine Park
	Liaison with indigenous groups and community involvement in management
Information for Park Management	Scientific and technical information available for Management
Reef Education & Communication	Improved Australia-wide profile and community understanding of GBRMPA critical issues group achievements

**Table 19: GBRMPA groups and outcomes 2002-03. Source: GBRMPA 2003.**

## **2. How the outcomes specified in a relevant Appropriations Act contribute to ecologically sustainable development [section 516A(6)(b)]**

The Department of Environment and Heritage Portfolio Budget Statement, Part C, Section 2- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, lists seven outcomes for the GBRMPA for 2002-03.

The above seven outcomes contribute to the GBRMPA goal: the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

All seven outcomes contribute directly to ecologically sustainable development by protecting and conserving the GBR. The major focus of the outcomes is on protection of natural, cultural, and world heritage values, and sustainable use of the GBRMP. The outcomes contribute to protecting biodiversity and ecological systems and to maintaining the health, diversity and productivity of the GBR for future generations. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

### **3. Effect of the organisation's activities on the environment [section 516A(6)(c)].**

The Authority has the responsibility of managing the world's largest living ecosystem, one of the world's largest World Heritage Areas, and Australia's largest and oldest declared marine protected area. The Authority manages the GBRMP as a multiple use marine park, and permits such uses as are ecologically sustainable, and as are permitted by legislation.

Potential large-scale pollution threats to the GBR are managed by a range of statutory protective mechanisms. The Authority's statutes prohibit mining in the marine park. Commercial shipping is managed by a wide range of maritime measures, including shipping channel restrictions, compulsory pilotage and interagency incident response protocols. The GBRMPA has significant responsibilities for ensuring the conservation of fish stocks, and the environment that sustains them.

In conjunction with its agency partners, the Authority has significantly increased its compliance and enforcement activities during 2003-03. Serious marine pollution and fisheries offences carry maximum legal penalties of more than \$1 million for corporations found guilty of such crimes.

### **4. Measures being taken by the organisation to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment [section 516A(6)(d)].**

The GBRMPA maintains a strong commitment to continuous improvement of its own environmental performance. The GBRMPA conducts environmental audits of its operations to maximise efficient use of resources, reduction of waste, and building of environmental awareness among its staff of employees and volunteers. Activities undertaken in the last year include:

- Operation of a Green Office Committee to raise awareness of environmental management within the office;
- Office machines [photocopiers, printers] are automatically programmed to save power;
- Printers are programmed to duplex documents to reduce paper usage;
- Printer toner cartridges are remanufactured and photocopier toner cartridges sent to Planet Arc for recycling;
- Staff are actively involved in recycling office paper with paper and cardboard being collected by a local recycling company;
- Packaging and envelopes are recycled;
- Corporate publications are printed on recycled paper if feasible;

- Wherever possible documents are provided electronically to reduce paper usage;
- Recycled paper is used in toilets [toilet paper and hand towels];
- All refrigerators are CFC-free;
- Toilets have been converted to dual flush as a water conservation measure; *and*
- Vehicle leasing decisions take into account Australian Greenhouse Office specifications on fuel consumption targets.

#### **5. Mechanisms for reviewing and increasing the effectiveness of these measures [section 516A(6)(e)].**

The Authority has committed to the development of an Environmental Management System [EMS], which has been incorporated as an implementation requirement under the GBRMPA 2003 Certified Agreement.

Through a structured Environmental Management System, [which GBRMPA proposes to be certified to the international standard ISO 14001], the Authority will monitor a range of its operational activities including energy management, transport, waste management, purchasing and water management. The system will provide a framework for considering and minimising environmental impacts within the context of continual improvement.

## Appendix 8: Commonwealth Disability Strategy

The Commonwealth Disability Strategy recognises that the Commonwealth has an impact on the lives of people with disabilities. The GBRMPA has developed a draft disability action plan, which is currently under review as part of the GBRMPA's obligation to provide an assessment of performance in implementing the Strategy framework. The revised plan will meet the new reporting requirements of the four key roles identified in the Strategy. The GBRMPA has identified that it performs the roles of policy adviser, provider, regulator and employer.

### *Policy adviser*

In its role as a Policy adviser, the GBRMPA is the principal adviser to the Commonwealth Government on the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Public consultation and participation are integral in the management of the Great Barrier Reef. The GBRMPA recognises its responsibility to ensure new policies are developed in consultation with people with a disability where appropriate. Where possible public meetings are held in venues with disability access. Public websites and public web entry points have been created in accordance with the accessibility requirements of the Government Online strategy.

### *Provider*

In the provider role, the GBRMPA manages Commonwealth marine parks and Reef HQ.

Access is provided to the majority of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for tourism and recreational activities. Information about the Park is available in accessible formats on the GBRMPA's website at <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au> and in hard copy from the Townsville office and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services offices situated along the coast. The GBRMPA's library has been designed to enable disability access and library staff provide assistance to people with disabilities. GBRMPA's library services provide access to information on CD Rom and on-line catalogues.

Due to the limitations of a marine-based park, access for people with a disability to the Park varies. Reef HQ provides a land-based reef experience for people who would otherwise be unable to access the Marine Park. Townsville Enterprise, the regional tourism body has recognised Reef HQ in its publications as a user-friendly centre for people with disabilities. Improved disability access, tactile and audiovisual displays have been incorporated into the current refurbishment of Reef HQ. Reef HQ provides interpretive facilities, on request, for people with disabilities.

### *Regulator*

Under its regulatory role, the GBRMPA administers the:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*;
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983;
- Great Barrier Reef Region [Prohibition of Mining] Regulations 1999;
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [Aquaculture] Regulations 2000;
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [Environmental Management Charge-General] Act 1993*; and
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [Environmental Management Charge-Excise] Act 1993*

Commonwealth legislation specific to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is accessible to the public through the GBRMPA website at

[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/about\\_gbrmpa/legislation\\_regulations](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/legislation_regulations), and brochures and fact sheets are provided on request through the GBRMPA Public Information Unit. Public notifications are also made in the Commonwealth Government Gazette and, depending on the needs of the person requesting the information, specific requests may be responded to by fax, email or normal postal services.

Under section 32 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the GBRMPA is required to provide opportunities for interested people to comment and gain information in relation to changes to the zoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This consultative process is achieved through a variety of media including intranet, mail outs, public meetings and public service announcements on both radio and television.

This process also occurs in relation to preparation of plans of management under section 39ZE of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Preparation of an annual report on the operation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* is required under section 9 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997. The report is also available on the Internet in an accessible format.

### *Employer*

The GBRMPA works across a number of areas to ensure it provides fair and equitable employment opportunities for all members of the community. The GBRMPA's employment policies, procedures and practices comply with the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. Recruitment information

for potential job applicants is made available in various ways depending on the needs of the individual.

Recruitment opportunities advertised in the Commonwealth Government Gazette and the press are accessible through the Internet.

The 2002-03 Annual Workplace Diversity data identifies 4 per cent of employees as having some form of disability. The actual number of employees with disabilities is expected to be higher than this figure due to non-disclosure. The GBRMPA's rate of employment of people with disabilities is similar to that of the broader APS [quoted as 4.2 percent in the 1999-2000 Workplace Diversity Report published by the Public Service and Merit Protection Commission].

Within the agency, the GBRMPA applies the principle of reasonable adjustment. For example, work is arranged to suit individual requirements and the necessary equipment, such as large computer screens or more appropriate keyboards, is provided. Flexible work arrangements are put in place as necessary to suit the needs of the individual. The main building, Reef HQ, conference rooms and meeting rooms are wheelchair accessible.

Training and development program are accessible to staff with disabilities and, where appropriate, contain information on disability issues.

Complaints and grievance mechanisms are in place and available to all staff. The GBRMPA has networks of harassment and diversity contact officers, and appropriate policies and mechanisms are in place should staff have concerns or issues needing to be addressed and resolved. GBRMPA employees also have access to an employee assistance program to discuss issues and concerns and to the Australian Public Service Commission for external reviews of actions.

## SECTION F

### Glossary and Indexes





## Glossary

ACG	Authority Consultative Group
ACS	Australian Customs Service
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
AMPTO	Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
AO	Officer of the Order of Australia
APS	Australian Public Service
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
BRD	By-catch Reduction Device
CD	Compact Disc
COTS	Crown of Thorns Starfish
CP or CIP	Community Information Program
CRC Reef Research Centre	Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DDM	Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage [formerly Environment Australia]
DZP	Draft Zoning Plan
EA	Environment Australia [now Department of Environment and Heritage]
ECTF	[Queensland] East Coast Trawl Fishery
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EMC	Environmental Management Charge
EPA	Environment Protection Agency [Queensland Government]
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
EREAC	Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee
FAICD	Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors
FTE	Full-time equivalent [staff position]
GBR	Great Barrier Reef
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GBRWhA	Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HPOM	Hinchinbrook Plan of Management
iPac	Information Portal System
IPLU	Indigenous Policy Liaison Unit
ISO	International Standards Organisation
ITMEMS	International Tropical Marine Environment Management Symposium
LMAC	Local Marine Advisory Committee
LTMP	Long Term Monitoring Project
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NRIU	Northern Region Intelligence Unit
OPAC	Operations Policy and Advisory Committee
PASC	Programs and Scheduling Committee
PEMS	Protected Environment Management System
QBFP	Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol
QDNR	Queensland Department of Natural Resources
QDPI	Queensland Department of Primary Industries
QEPA	Queensland Environmental Protection Agency
QFS	Queensland Fisheries Service
QIWG	Queensland Indigenous Working Group
QPWS	Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service
QPS	Queensland Police Service
RACQ	Royal Automobile Club of Queensland
RAP	Representative Areas Program
SDC	Spatial Data Centre
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
TED	Turtle Excluder Device
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

## Compliance Index

Location of information provided in accordance with the Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies and FMS Act Bodies issued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in June 2003.

Note: na indicates that the relevant material was not applicable to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during 2003–03

Letter of transmittal#iii

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